



## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 19, No. 6

June-July 1995



On Friday, June 2, it will be the ladies' turn to entertain the gentlemen in honor of Father's Day. The ladies are planning a Swedish potluck. Refreshments start at 6:00 and dinner is served at 6:30.

All women are asked to bring their favorite dish to serve at least 12 people. If you don't have time to cook, you know how men love dessert—or bring both. I'm sure we will have a nice program. There will also be a short business meeting to initiate new members.

This will be our last meeting before the summer, so plan to attend and have a fun evening of good food and fellowship.

### Chairman's Message

Head chef Ernie Skorheim and his crew, Ed Dahlberg, Chuck Nelson, Arlie Veis, Herb Johnson, and many others, did a fantastic job cooking and serving our *Mors Dag* dinner. It was great, you guys. Thanks all of you!

The children were so cute singing spring songs in Swedish. Several of them received their first-year, five-year, and eight-year pins. The Children's Club leaders are much appreciated. They are doing an admirable job of passing our Swedish heritage on to the children. Of course, Don Carlson's Mother's Day

song in Swedish brought tears to our eyes. We had a record crowd again, even with the bad weather.

We won't have another newsletter until the September issue (coming out in late August), so please take note of our big summer events (also mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter): the herring breakfast, our midsummer festivities, and the crayfish party. And all you new members, please take part in all the activities—you'll will glad you did!

Enjoy your summer vacation as you are traveling out and about. I know some of our members are going to Sweden. Come back safely, and we'll see you all at our next business meeting in September.

In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson

### Congratulations!

Proud congratulations are in order to our members who now hold district offices:

- **Kurt Pfannkuch** is the new District Master for Golden Gate District No. 12.
- **Audrey Fales** is the new District Cultural Leader.
- **Margaret Carlson** in the District Historian.
- **Myrtle Widmark** is Outer Guard for the convention.

### Herring Breakfast

Don't forget our annual *sillfrukost* on **Saturday, May 27**. It is always a popular and well-attended event.

Here are the particulars again: We will be at the home of Eivor and Kurt Pfannkuch, 1921 Columbia Drive, Yuba City, starting at 10:30 AM. Please call the Pfannkuchs for reservations at 673-5917. Drive north on highway 99. Just before Yuba City, turn right on Bogues Road, go about three blocks, and turn left on Columbia Drive. It's actually a fast and easy drive.

Please car pool and offer to take someone who can't drive. And please bring chairs and tables.

### 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

## Introducing

### our Member of the Month, Marianne Ek!

I am not of Swedish descent but had the good sense to marry a Swede. Before I met Sven and learned a little about Sweden and the Swedes, my total cultural background was German and American. All four of my grandparents were Germans from the Ukraine.

I first met Sven when he came to visit with Mom and Richard. My father had died when I was a teenager. Sven and Richard were friends. For the next two years Sven was in Sweden most of that time. After celebrating my 21st birthday, I was rudely awakened by the loud sound of a hammer pounding. Thinking it was my younger brother, I raced to the door, yanked it open—and stopped in mid yell. It was Sven building forms for concrete. I quietly closed the door and didn't go near the back yard for the rest of the day.

Several months later, I had made reservations at a nice restaurant for Mom and Dick for their first anniversary dinner. I had broken up with my boyfriend and was dateless. So Richard called Sven and I began to learn about Swedes. During the evening, I asked him if he had any brothers or sisters. He replied that if I would go to the movies with him the next night, he would tell me the name of one of

his brothers. He asked me to please not wear red (guess what I was wearing) which was his least favorite color.

On that first date I learned about Lars—next Ernst, Nils, and Karl. But I was getting suspicious. How many more, I asked. He chuckled: "Only Olaf. But then there are my sisters Elin, Greta, and Svea." It took me six months to pronounce Sven Uno Ek to his satisfaction. In the process of all this getting acquainted, we danced until the last dance at Crow Canyon, Café du Nord, Linnea lodge, and Sons of Norway. Almost the entire membership of Vasa

and Sons of Norway were related by birth, marriage, or through the construction industry: everyone knew everyone else.

When we married, we immediately joined Vasa where his brother Lars and sister-in-law were members. Being interested in music, I took to Swedish music like a duck to water. Sven would come home and hear me try to sing with the records and could stop laughing at my pronunciation only long enough to try to teach me a few words. I fell in love with Swedish food—except for herring. The first time I mentioned cooking a turkey for Christmas, I thought Sven looked a little pale. So then we had turkey for Thanksgiving and ham for Christmas.

We had two children, Mary Kristina and Sven Erik. In 1970, my world fell apart, and I moved to Sacramento to be near my parents. I feel I have to make the best of everything. I can express my personal heritage through the Sacramento Turner Harmonie (German choir) and my love of things Swedish with my rejoining Vasa and the Valley Viking Singers. Languages, cooking, people, music and much more interest me. I am thankful for the many lovely people I have met at Monitor and hope that I will continue to grow and learn my whole life.

*[Editor's note: We in Monitor Lodge are all grateful for all the time and effort Marianne puts into being not only the director of our choir but also the big job of lodge secretary for several years.]*



## About Our Members

★ We regret to inform you that Alice Swanfeldt has passed away. She has cancer. Her funeral service was held on May 22.

★ Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Elayne Lincecum. She is the Mercy General Hospital following a heart attack.

★ To all our members and friends under the weather, may you soon feel better!

★ Helen Forsty is thanking everyone for all the expressions of concern and sympathy following the death of her husband.

★ The Friendship Committee is planning to baby shower for Anne Fors. Details will follow.

★ Monitor members played important parts in the recent Sacramento Bach Festival: Dan Bachman played his viola, Betty Schoepf sang soprano, and Chris Bodelson sang tenor.

★ In the list of officers in our program book, page 36, Marianne Ek's zip code should be 95691.



## Nål och Tråd

There will be no regular meetings during the summer. However, if and when we do something special, we will get in touch.

— Karin Bodelson



## Scandia Farns

at 813 C Sutter Street, Folsom (in the back), is a new little Scandinavian gift shop you might want to check out.





- 6/01 - June Brown  
 6/02 - Audrey Olson-Smith  
 6/02 - Ruth Uffens  
 6/02 - Inger Thornros  
 6/07 - Violet Backman  
 6/08 - Gilbert Holm  
 6/09 - Lou Johnson  
 6/10 - Beatrice Mattson  
 6/15 - Elizabeth Johnson  
 6/17 - Edmund Nelson  
 6/20 - Barbara Mecci-Erickson  
 6/20 - Frank Stangl  
 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 - John Ericson  
 7/18 - Madeleine Hallstrom  
 7/24 - Ingegerd Kennedy  
 7/24 - Joyce Johnson  
 7/31 - Leo Krastins

### Swedish Classes/Picnic

The last intermediate/advanced class is on May 25.

All Swedish classes are having a joint potluck picnic at the Winterstein's adult education school park on Thursday, June 1, 6:00 PM. Current and former students and teachers are invited. Please bring table, chair, utensils, potluck to share, and meat if you want to barbecue.

- LaVerne Gullans

### Sweden's National Day

On the occasions of Sweden's National Day on June 6, here an historic look at the Swedish flag:

The Swedish flag was originally a royal banner used by King Karl Knutsson Bonde in his wars against the Danes during the 1400s. The yellow cross long remained strictly a royal symbol but Swedish ships started using the "three-tongue" flag for protection at sea. Private ships were vulnerable, but the state flag, they thought, might fool pirates into believing that the ship was an armed Navy vessel. The first flag law was enacted in 1663 and remained in force until 1815 when the union with Norway complicated matters. The Norwegians believed in a "clean" flag, but the union designation was incorporated into all flags in Sweden until Norway's independence in 1905. Flying the flag on land remained uncommon long into the 19th century. The flag was generally considered a state symbol that should not be used by private individuals.

At the start of the 1871 Parliament session, a flag pole was raised on the Parliament building in Stockholm. The flag was flown whenever Parliament (Riksdagen) was in session. The custom to fly the Swedish flag spread slowly to government and other official buildings and schools. Towards the end of the 1800s, individuals began more and more to fly a flag on special occasions. However, the colors were different: the blue color was of a darker shade and the yellow was almost orange.

The first spring festival in the outdoor animal and history park Skansen in Stockholm was held in 1893. The festivities end-

ed with a big flag demonstration on June 6, the date which would become Sweden's national day 90 years later. In the meantime, Flag Day became a big annual celebration in which thousands of school children eventually participated, each one waving a small flag. As Europe as a continent changes in the future, it will be even more important for the various populations to know their regional history and preserve regional symbols.

*Summary translation  
 from an article in  
 Bygd och Natur, No. 3/92*



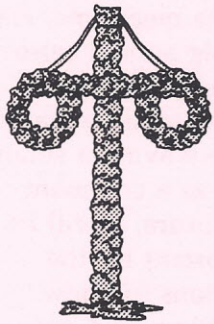
### Dues Anniversaries

Daniel and Violet Backman  
 Don Carlson  
 Elizabeth Coleman  
 Ellen Harrod  
 Liesma Krastins  
 Frank Lindahl  
 Bernie Lundberg  
 Beatrice Mattson  
 Harold Mattson  
 Francies and Nancy Misenti  
 Dorothy Mogford  
 Edmund and Billie Nelson  
 Ernest and Juanita Skorheim  
 John and Jewel Wright  
 Donn and Lillian Stafford  
 Sigrid Thorsen

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the June meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.



## The Greened Midsummer Pole



*Midsommar* is a uniquely Nordic sun-worshipping ceremony harkening back to pagan times. Traditionally, it begins in Sweden on

the Friday between the 19th and 25th of June and lasts through the weekend, so Midsummer is celebrated on June 23-25 this year. This issue of our newsletter, therefore, seems a good time to discuss some confusion about the name of the midsummer pole. The Swedish word *majstång* is often translated "maypole," which is not surprising since *maj* is the Swedish word for the month of May. There is an obvious inconsistency here, however, for midsummer is in June, not in May. The explanation lies in the fact that *majstång* means literally "greened pole" from the old Swedish verb *maja* meaning "to make green." Since spring comes late in Scandinavia, the month which became green, the fifth month of the Gregorian calendar, derived its name, too, from *maja*, to "make green."

*Majning* (pronounced "min-ing")—the use of freshly cut greens to deck doors, steps, and cottage walls and ceilings, even the local church itself, in addition to the pole (*majstång*) erected in the farmyard—likely has its roots deep in Swedish folk belief. In the earliest runic alphabet (predating the year 1,000), the sign of a branch denotes Midsummer Day. Numerous written accounts of the practice of midsummer greening go back to the early

1600s, and it is considered improbable that such a near-pagan ritual would have been tolerated by the strict 17th century clergy had it not by that time already become a firmly established folk tradition.

Specific times and details of the ceremony vary with local customs, as does the design of the midsummer pole itself. Examples of the greened midsummer pole are rare outside Sweden and Finland. In Norway and Denmark the summer solstice is marked by the lighting of bonfires on the eve before, followed by "general merrymaking."

— From an article in  
*Swedish Press*, June 1994

## Nominations for Officers

The Nominating Committee is working on a slate of officers for next year. They will be contacting members to serve as officers or appointees. This is a great opportunity to support your lodge in its activities. So let the committee know that you are interested. Also, you may nominate members that you think would be good officers. Please contact Myrtle Widmark, 481-4056, or Marianne Ek, 372-7824, to volunteer or nominate someone.

## Scandinavian Festival Report

A very special THANK YOU to all who donated their time and talents to this festival—before, during, and after.

Although expenses were greater and sales tax was deducted this year, each of the five participating lodges will be receiving a check for \$700!

**Lost and Found.** The following items were left behind after

the festival and are looking for their owners:

- Sleeveless, white T-shirt
- Large, blue tin with Teddy Bear picture
- Beige hand towel
- White, plastic cake taker plate
- 2 plastic serving utensils
- White, plastic gallon-size container

**Mark Your Calendars:** The first meeting to start planning the next Scandinavian Festival will be held on October 9, 7 pm, at the Sons of Norway Hall. Next year's festival will be held on Saturday, April 13, 1996.

— Ethel Johnson,  
Monitor Festival Representative

## Kräffkalas

Our very popular crayfish party will be held this year on **Saturday, August 19**, at 6:00 pm, at the home of Peggy and Ken Carlson, 4408 Kenneth Avenue (off Sunset Avenue).

Crayfish will be furnished by the lodge, but everything else is potluck. Please bring chairs and also some small tables (like card tables), if you can.

There will be a business meeting at 5 pm preceding the crayfish party. Please come early enough to attend to keep up on our important business affairs. We will try to make it as short and sweet as possible.



## ✓ Condensed Minutes from the May 5 Business Meeting ✓

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:19 pm. District Master Kurt Pfannkuch and District Deputy Noel Hogue were introduced.
2. Cultural leader Jewel Wright reminded us of upcoming events: Sweden in Bloom on May 13, Kingsburg Festival on May 18, and the *sillfrukost* on May 27.
3. Pictures of the children performing this evening will be sent with an article to the Vasa Star.
4. One-, five-, and eight-year pins were presented to members of the Children's Club.
5. Ethel Johnson reported that the five lodges participating in the Scandinavian Festival will each receive a check for \$700.
6. Correspondence included a thank-you card from Helen Forsty and a check for \$20 from Ulf Aspenlind for the newsletter, although he has declined the initiation ceremony to become a member.
7. Herb Johnson was advanced \$100 for supplies for the herring breakfast.
8. The crayfish party will be held at the home of Ken and Peggy Carlson on Saturday, August 19.
9. Audrey Fales gave a district convention report. The new district officers were congratulated. Mileage of \$58.60 was paid to delegates Myrtle Widmark and Arlie Veis.
10. Kurt Pfannkuch spoke on the honor of being elected District Master and applauded our convention delegates for their dedicated efforts. Noel Hogue talked about the history of Nord Lodge and some of the Vasa formalities and rules.
11. To relax the formalities, we might at times dispense with rearranging the hall following dinner socials. The meeting can be held with members still at the tables.
12. Eivor Pfannkuch recommended Sweden Day at Half Moon Bay on June 3. The following day is International Day in San Francisco, making for an enjoyable Bay Area weekend.
13. Myrtle Widmark and Audrey Fales will inventory Monitor's library books for possible donation to the Santa Cruz Cultural Center and the Sacramento County Cultural museum. The Swedish language teachers might want to look the books over also.
14. Marianne Ek said that Volvo is donating a scholarship and a Volvo to the Jeopardy college scholarship competition.
15. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read.
16. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Brian Stockham,  
Assistant Secretary

### Member Initiation

Heads up, all prospective members! We will have member initiation ceremonies at the next meeting, the Father's Day social on Friday, June 2. So if you have submitted your application and paid the necessary fees, please make sure to come to this meeting. We will not have initiations again until some time in the fall.



### Deadline

for the August-September newsletter is **Friday, August 11**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

### Swedish National Dress

If you're interested in a dress, billed as an "affordable alternative" to the Swedish national costume, Ingrid Kennedy has information with color photo and order forms about a light-weight dress, ready-made in Sweden. It consist of a blue jumper and yellow apron, both with embroidered daisies ribbon, and a long-sleeve white blouse with lace trimming on collar and cuffs. The prize for girls' sizes ranges from \$112 to \$142. Women's sizes cost \$209. They promise 7-14 days for delivery.

*Trevlig sommar  
och  
Glad Midsommar!*



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

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Sacramento, CA

DATED MATERIAL

# ♪ MIDSOMMAR ♪

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♪ Tom and Annika Anderson have again offered their lovely home for our Midsummer picnic on **Saturday, June 24**. The address is 12269 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove (see map on reverse). We had so much fun and so much good food last year, we can hardly wait . . .

♪ Come around 3:00 PM to help decorate and raise *majstången* (the greened pole). This is the main event, a true family affair with the Children's Club playing an important part. Then we'll have dancing around *majstången*, volley ball, horse shoes, and other games for all ages, as well as swimming for the hardy. (Parents, please watch your children around the pool!)

♪ Later in the afternoon or early evening as the weather cools off, we'll have a Swedish potluck picnic. Besides your potluck dish, please bring a chair and table if you can. Drinks will be furnished by the lodge.

## See you there!





INTERSTATE 5

FRANKLIN HOOD RD

FRANKLIN BLVD.

RAILROAD TRACKS

BILBY RD.

PT. PLEASANT RD.

LAMBERT RD.

ELK GROVE BLVD.

BRUCEVILLE RD.

BRUCEVILLE RD.

POPPY RIDGE RD

KAMMERER RD.

ESCHINGER RD.

HIGHWAY 99

FIRING RANGE  
JAIL  
AIRPORT

THE ANDERSONS  
12269 BRUCEVILLE RD  
PHONE: (916) 684-2204

CAMP RD.

TWIN CITIES RD



# BABY SHOWER



*Please help us celebrate the latest addition to the Monitor family (due any moment as we go to press) and congratulate the proud parents **Anne and Hans Fors**. The members of Nål och Tråd have offered to provide light refreshments, but a small memento for the baby would certainly be appreciated. To help us plan, RSVP to Jean Anderson 682-7438 or Ethel Johnson 457-0966.*

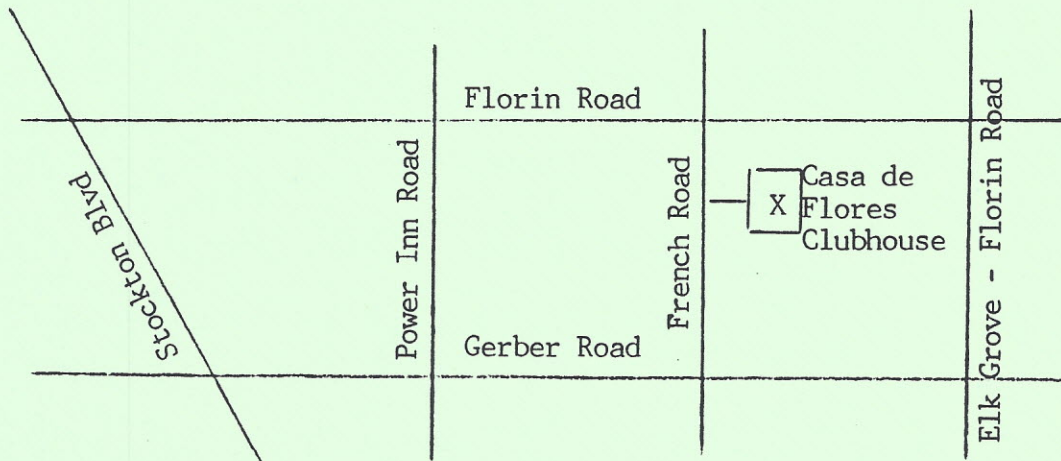
**SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1 PM**

*In the Clubhouse*

*Casa de Flores Mobile Home Park*

*7465 French Road, Sacramento*

*(Parking at the clubhouse)*



# MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: 10/10/54

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (100-10000)

FROM: SA [Name], NEW YORK (100-10000)

SUBJECT: [Subject Name]

[Detailed typed text follows, including a list of names and addresses.]

## RE: [Subject Name]

[Detailed typed text follows, including a list of names and addresses.]

100-10000

100-10000

100-10000