

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 19, No. 7

August-September 1995



OUR FIRST MEETING FOR the fall season will be held on **Friday, September 1, 7 pm**, at our usual meeting place, Wisteria Hall.

We will be taking in new members; the Nominating Committee will report; we will be planning our fall activities; and we'll have a nice cultural program.

There will be no dinner, but we're asking members to bring a plate of open-face sandwiches or a plate of cookies to serve after the meeting.

Chairman's Message

Summer is soon gone. Why is it time seems to go by faster and faster? It's already time to get busy on all our fall activities.

By the time you read this, we've had another successful crayfish party. Our thanks to Kenneth and Peggy Carlson who hosted this year's *kräftkalas*. We always have a great time, good food, and a good turn-out. This year was no exception. *Tusen tack* to all who made it happen!

The Nominating Committee is working hard to get a new slate of officers for 1996. Do volunteer to help make this another banner year. Please don't say "No" when asked to run for an office or committee.

Our pancake breakfast is coming up on Saturday, Septem-

ber 30, and we need everybody's support. If you can't help, please come out for a real Swedish breakfast. We're holding it earlier this year, so the weather should still be pleasant.

Welcome back from all the summer activities and let's all get together for a great Monitor year!

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*



Tack, Tack

to Tom and Annika Andersson for hosting our Midsummer fest again this year!

The weather was hot so we only raised *Majstången* and danced around it, but everyone enjoyed the swimming pool, the outstanding food, the cold drinks, and the Swedish music. We had a good turn-out, including visitors from Sweden. The whole day was very Swedish and a day to remember. The Anderssons even had a miniature *majstång* in their back yard, in addition to the big one we raised.

Tusen tack, Tom and Annika!



Friendship Committee

Best wishes to Monitor members who have had difficulties during the summer: Karin Bodelson was in the hospital for a while. Viola Bodelson is still having health problems. George Uffens suffered a broken leg. Sue Bergman was mugged and spent time in the hospital. The Unitarian Church had a beautiful memorial for Helen Tura.

1996 Program

To meet the deadline for the 1996 Program Book, we must have our activities planned by the end of September. Therefore, we will be having a **program planning meeting on Monday, September 18**. All officers, in particular, need to set this date aside. We will have details at the September meeting.

For Information about Monitor Lodge

Please contact 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

Welcome, New Members!

The new members listed below were initiated at our June 2 meeting. Please add them to your membership roster.

Nancy J. Maddowx
6110 Longmont Way
Carmichel, CA 95608
961-2460

Jack and Linda Becker
110 Tetworth Way
Folsom, CA 95630
983-4505

Carl and Launna Nelson
8941 Colombard Way
Sacramento, CA 95829
688-0783

April Nelson
3304 Chertsey Court
Sacramento, CA 95827
362-6725

Beatrix (Trixie) Clark
85 Starlit Circle
Sacramento, CA 95831
429-2328

Swedish Classes

Intermediate and advanced classes will resume on Thursday, September 14, 7:00 pm, at the Coloma Community Center (Jamestown Room), 4623 T Street. Our teacher is LaVerne Gullans, 485-2609.



If you're interested in taking beginner Swedish, please call Birgitta Ellis at 920-0696.

She is planning to start her classes on Tuesday, September 19, 7:00-9:00 pm, but this can be changed according to your needs.

Happy Birthday!

8/01 - Carl E. Larson
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
8/19 - Charles Badgley
8/26 - Birgitta Ostlund
8/28 - Jillian Stanley
8/29 - Dorothy Kingren
8/29 - Gail Nemy
9/04 - Erika Lewis
9/06 - Carol Churkin
9/08 - Jean Anderson
9/08 - Jack Becker
9/12 - Peggy Carlson
9/13 - Anne Fors
9/16 - Arlie Veis
9/19 - Carl A. Larson
9/21 - Ethel Hubbell
9/21 - Eleanor Vine
9/23 - Britt Marie Anderson
9/23 - Gloria Braswell
9/24 - Jeanne Hagstrom
9/24 - Maud Loken
9/27 - Julius Holmquist
9/29 - Estrid Doscher

Need Space?

Our friends in Sons of Norway are advertising that they rent out their meeting place, Norway Hall, for weddings, birthday parties, dances, conferences, or any other occasions requiring a large room. If you got big plans, call Kathy at 922-2460 for reservations.

Library Books

Lots of books have been donated to Monitor Lodge for the members to use. This summer, a group of us went through them all to determine which ones would be of interest for us to keep. The books we eliminated will be on display at our September meeting for anyone to take. Any books left over after that will be donated to the Scandinavian Cultural Center, a library, or a museum. The books we have kept for our own library will be available at our regular meetings for members to sign out on loan.

— Myrtle Widmark

August and September Dues Anniversaries

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

Jean Anderson
Audrey Fales
Laurine Coplen
Camilla and Gilbert Holm
Don and Joyce Johnson
Vicki Lydecker
Ann-Catrin and Robert Titus
Milo Ahlstrand
John and Mai Loken

Dues are \$18 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.

Deadline

for the October newsletter is **Friday, September 15**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Nål och Tråd

Monitors "Needle and Thread" group includes all members, both women and men, who are interested in crafts and needlework. Things we're doing include weaving, embroidery, sewing, bobbin lace, floral head wreaths, wood Christmas trees and decorations, *Dalamålning*, and note cards. Some items we make for ourselves, but most of them are sold at our meetings and at the annual Scandinavian Festival in April.

We plan to make the Christmas trees again but **we need woodworkers** to help cut out the trees. The patterns will be available at the September meeting.

Our meetings are held at members' homes. This month we are having an evening and a day-time meeting since some people do not like to be out at night. Come and bring your ideas and anything you are working on. We always have a good time visiting and enjoying delicious refreshments.

Here are the dates and places for our September meetings:

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7 pm

Myrtle Widmark
3900 Silver Spur Way
Sacramento, 481-4056

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 10 am

(Bring a brown bag lunch; dessert and coffee will be furnished)

Eleanor Vine
7304 Sunsilver Lane
Sacramento, 688-5296
(Call for entrance code)

— Myrtle Widmark

Elderhostel Trip

It was with much excitement that the five of us¹⁾ left Sacramento on June 4 for a week at the Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, to study Scandinavia. Our classes were

- The Scandinavian States: A Look at the Way of Life
- The Songs of Norway
- Folk Art (choice of stitching, wood carving, or rosemaking)

We lived in a dorm and took our meals and classes in the Scandinavian Cultural Center on campus. We also attended a violin and piano concert in the new music hall, took a bus tour of Tacoma, and went on a picnic tour to Mt. Ranier on a beautiful, clear day.

When school was out, we rented a car and spent a couple of days in Seattle where we went to the Nordic Heritage Museum and other interesting places.

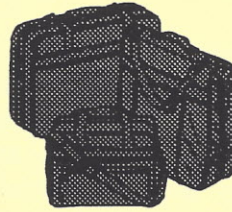
This was the first Elderhostel program for all of us and we definitely plan on going again!

¹⁾ Jean Anderson, Ethel Johnson, Jeanette Kruse, Dorothy Scherer, and Myrtle Widmark.

Greyhound

was started at Hibbing near Duluth by a young Swedish miner who drove fellow workers to and from the mine for a small charge. Carl Eric Wickman (1887-1954) had come to the United States at the age of 17. His first bus was a second-hand automobile. At the time of his death, the Greyhound corporation operated more than 7,000 buses.

— Swedish Press, August 1994



Minutes

Here are condensed minutes from the June 2 business meeting. (The current Assistant Secretary is maintaining complete minutes for the historical records, always open to all members.)

1. The meeting was opened at 8:15, roll was called, and District Deputy Noel Hogue was introduced.
2. Seven new members were initiated.
3. The charter was draped in memory of deceased members Elayne Lincecum, Alice Swanfeldt, and Holgar Nordquist.
4. Secretary Marianne Ek had submitted an article to *The Vasa Star* on our Mother's Day dinner.
5. Correspondence included:
 - a. Birth announcement of a son to Gladys and Frank Stangle, great grandson of Holgar Nordquist.
 - b. Vasa letter reporting \$500 scholarships to two recipients.
 - c. The lodge had received assessment for 205 members of \$1,189, plus \$30.75 and \$528.25 for local and district insurance, for a total of \$1,748.00.
6. Future events include Sweden Day, our Midsummer fest, and the crayfish party in August.
7. A motion was made and carried to send a \$25 donation to the County Hospice at Danville for Alice Swanfeldt.
8. Marianne Ek suggested that we move into the computer age by getting one for the secretary.
9. Marianne Ek and Margaret Carlson recommended a bus trip in the fall to Bay Area Scandinavian stores.
10. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read.
11. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Member of the Month: Art Niemoller

I trace my Swedish ancestry through my grandmother, Minnie Christine Carlson. She was born in Sweden in 1875 and emigrated to the US as a teenager. She was working as a school-teacher in San Francisco when the great earthquake and fire scared her back to Kansas, her family, and that fateful meeting with my grandfather.

I was born in New Jersey in the midst of World War II. One of my earliest memories is of me standing on the Jersey shore (Seaside Heights, where my family usually spent the summers) watching the wild celebrations marking V-J Day. I spent a comfortable uneventful adolescence growing up in the small town atmosphere of Morristown, N.J. Growing up in rural New Jersey did have its advantages, however; many remarkable Saturdays were spent roaming the wonders of New York City, just a short train and ferry ride away.

Four years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute gained me a degree in Aeronautical Engineering and a career in the Air Force (an engineering job during summers convinced me that working for a living was an unacceptable option). It was at the old Sheidel's restaurant during a night off from flight training at Mather AFB that I met my wife, Donna. She was teaching school in Roseville—and I was off to Vietnam.

The next 24 years witnessed a rather odd but extremely rewarding and enjoyable life. We live on or visited every continent except Antarctica. We weren't always together but managed to reunite occasionally. It is an interesting footnote that despite our constant and wide-ranging travels, both our children (Ricky in 1972 and Tiffany in 1980) were born at the Mather Hospital. As an example of life at taxpayer's expense, look at our travels during July-August 1994. We were living just outside Brussels, Belgium, and as a matter of course took the following trips, each a couple of days to a week in length: Athens, Greece; Milan, Italy; Paris, France; London, England; as well as tours of the Brittany coast and the Chateaux of the Loire Valley. A tough life!

Nothing that good lasts forever, and in 1984 we return to the US. I retired from the Air Force in 1988. A unanimous family vote selected Sacramento as our destination of choice, so we moved back here and have lived happily ever since. Donna returned to her teaching profession. Ricky is soon to graduate as a nuclear engineer from UC Berkeley and Tiffany is a sophomore at St. Francis High School. I am completing a degree in computer science and am looking forward to a happy future including at least one trip back to Europe, or maybe Thailand, or perhaps Russia, or . . .



Kurbits Painting

Almost 200 years ago, a distinctive tradition of popular art arose in a poor and isolated province of Sweden. The painters and peasants of *Dalarna* decorated their churches, houses, carriages, and furniture with bright colors depicting scenes from the Bible. There was no attempt made to set the scenes in ancient times and places. The biblical figures were dressed in contemporary costumes and the buildings and trees were often depicted in the same size as the people.

The earliest traces of Dala paintings are purely decorative, mainly on cupboards and other furniture with stylized flowers as the only subject. The first paintings with representative subjects appeared in the 1780s, and this tradition continued to flourish into the mid-19th century. One of the charms of the Dala paintings is that the painter has filled the whole surface with ornaments. Most of them are exotic trees, roses, and even "flaming" tulips so depicted because the artist had never seen them. Of special importance is the stylized flower vase with flowers and leaves that issue symmetrically from a central stem. The "kurbits" flower has almost become a signum of the genre, and the paintings are often called "kurbits paintings." Norwegians have similarly the "rosemaling."

The ornaments you find today on Dala horses and Mora clocks are very much kurbits paintings, so the technique lives on. One such artist is Rita Sharpe Walker from the "Swedish" town of Lindsborg in Kansas. She has no Swedish background but was captivated by the style. Her American derivation of Dalecarlian painting has been shown at *Kulturhuset* in Stockholm.

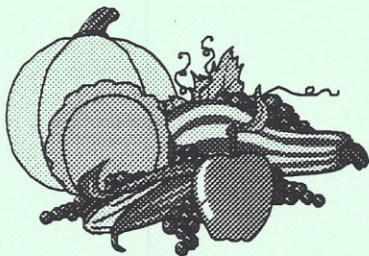
If you are interested in learning about kurbits art and Rita Sharpe Walker's interpretation of it, you can reach her through the Folklife Institute, 118 S. Main Street, Lindsborg, KS 67456.

Swedish Pancake Breakfast



**AT FARMER BOB'S
8571 SUNSET AVENUE
FAIR OAKS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
8:30 – 11:00 AM**

**The price is \$3.50
and \$1.00 for children under 10**



Enjoy a delicious, plentiful breakfast of the famous thin Swedish pancakes with all the trimmings. It is served in a beautiful country, pumpkin patch setting. Farmer Bob's fresh fruits and vegetables are also available.

**Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
126 Hibiscus Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95828**

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