

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 19, No. 8

October 1995



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, IS when we serve our popular Swedish meatball supper. We start with refreshments at 6:00 PM. At 6:30 we will be serving meatballs, mashed potatoes and a vegetable salad, lingonberries, bread, coffee, and a dessert—all this for only \$5 (children under 10 free)! This is a family affair, so we hope everybody can come.

In addition, we have a nice program planned, a member will be presented with a 25-year pin, and we have a gift from the lodge for the new Fors baby.

A short business meeting will follow. We'll be voting for new officers and our program for 1996.

Chairman's Message

Although you can't tell by the weather, fall is here, everyone's calendar is beginning to fill up, and all the new TV programs are starting. But I hope you're saving some time for Monitor Lodge. For instance, you don't want to miss our October meeting: our cooks always do a super job on our meatballs.

Some of us will be attending the Scandinavian Fest in Turlock and our famous Valley Viking Singers will be there. Other events the same 21-22 October weekend include the District Membership Seminar, the Sweden Day planning session, and

Valhalla's anniversary dinner.

We have now worked out our 1996 program. Do come to our October meeting and find out about all the exiting things we have planned for next year—including celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Vasa Order of America!

Long-time member Gail Patricia Johnson passed away August 28 after a long and valiant struggle with multiple sclerosis. Our hearts go out to her husband Robert and sons and grandchildren. Some of our lodge members attended the memorial. Among other things, Gail is remembered as quite a lady and for her book of beautiful poems.

The lodge has transferred \$25 to the scholarship fund in Gail's name.



Very Special Thanks

from all of us to a much too shy and modest Monitor member who donated \$2,000 to our lodge at the September meeting!

Attention Families!

On a trial basis for the next three months, we have access to a spare room next to our meeting room. The plans are to have someone watch the children here while the parents get a chance to attend business meetings.

Just Around the Corner

In case this reaches you before the end of the month, here are two events coming up soon:

✓ We're having our Swedish pancake breakfast on Saturday, September 30. Call Myrtle (481-4056) to sign up to help. We start serving at 8:30 AM and need set-up workers at 7:00 or 7:30.

✓ Nord Lodge is celebrating its 75th anniversary at the Elks Lodge on October 14. Dinner cost is \$13.50. If you'd like to go, contact Margaret Carlson (742-9346) before October 1.

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

Tack, Tack!

We are deeply grateful to Ken and Peggy Carlson for opening their home to our *kräftkalas*. We know it involves lots of work both before and after the event.

Business Meeting

A brief, informal business meeting was held before the crayfish party on August 19. Subjects discussed included:

- Marianne was authorized to order printing of lodge stationery, envelopes, vouchers, and scholarship and membership cards.

- Volunteers are needed to plan the *glögg* party and *smörgåsbord* in December. Set-up and clean-up committees are also needed for both events.

- Marianne was instructed to write a letter the Vasa Star about frequent publishing mistakes and omissions in material we have sent in.

Roster Changes

David and Karin Dorey
2434 Stokewood Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
858-8568

Joyce Burns
2691 Fremont Avenue -
Clovis, CA 93611

LaVerne Gilbertson
7340 Stock Ranch Rd., #223
Citrus Heights, CA 95621-5569
726-3834

Vera Anderson
465 Sandhills Circle
Pinehurst, NC 28374-7037

Our Secretary, Marianne Ek, has a new phone number: 372-1015



10/01 - June Delle
10/03 - Lowell Carlson
10/03 - Bernie Lundberg
10/04 - Eva Allred
10/05 - Karen Johnson
10/06 - Dale Ingvarsdson
10/06 - Gail Johnson
10/08 - Barbara Lutz
10/10 - Karin Bodelson
10/10 - Helen Dyckman
10/11 - Keith Bergstrom
10/16 - Juanita Skorheim
10/17 - Ruby Anderson
10/18 - Ann-Catrin Titus
10/20 - Ethel Hoffman
10/21 - Carl Nelson
10/23 - Lilman Olson
10/24 - Marianne Ek
10/27 - Vickie Lydecker
10/29 - Gibson Kingren
10/30 - John Anderson

Dues Anniversaries

Louise Amundsen
Edna and Robert Anderson
Edward and Lucy Dahlberg
June Delle
David and Karin Dorey
LaVerne Gilbertson
Paul and LaVerne Gullans
Madeline Hallstrom
Robert Johnson
Carol Kwolek
Barbara Mecci-Ericson
Faye Powell
Jillian Stanley
Inger and Lennart Thornros

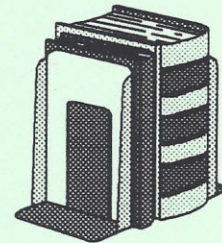
Dues are \$18 a year. If you wish, you can mail your dues to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Library

Donated books that we will not keep for our library collection will be on display at the October meeting. Any-

one may take these books home to keep. Reading Swedish text will increase your language ability. Linda Johnson has donated a set of Swedish Encyclopedias.

We need to start cataloging our library collection. We would greatly appreciate all the help we can get, especially if someone has library knowledge. Please contact Myrtle Widmark.



Community Heritage Day

There will be a Community Heritage Day at Central Park in Davis (Russel & B St.) on Saturday, October 21, 11 AM - 5 PM. There will be entertainment, children's activities, handicrafts, cultural displays, ethnic food, and much more.

Monitor Lodge has voted to have a display at this event. We will have information about Sweden for people to look at. If you have any Swedish newspapers, magazines, maps, or issues of Vestkusten or the Vasa Star to donate, it would be nice to give out. Please bring them to the October meeting. Myrtle Widmark is in charge of this event and, naturally, would appreciate help both with the preparations and to man the display on October 21.

Condensed Minutes from September 1, 1995, Business Meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 7:15, roll was called, and the August 19 minutes were approved.
2. The charter was draped in memory of Gail Johnson.
3. Many paid membership applicants have not been initiated. A motion was made and carried that a letter be sent to these applicants, saying that their dues will be forfeited if they continue to be unavailable for initiation.
4. Marianne Ek proposed the lodge get a Kinko's charge card for designated officers. Kinko's has made suggestions that could save the lodge money.
5. The lodge now has keys to the dumpster.
6. The meeting voted to participate in the American Heritage Day in Davis [see article on p. 2] and Myrtle Widmark will handle our representation.
7. The meeting also voted to participate in the Sweden in Bloom Festival. The *Nål och Tråd* group will handle this.
8. Monitor will rent a small room next to our meeting room for \$25 a month through the rest of the year. It can be used as a children's room during meetings.
9. Our Nominating Committee will attend membership and Sweden Day planning meetings October 21-22 in Santa Cruz. A motion was made and carried that the lodge will contribute \$100 per person for expenses.
10. *Nål och Tråd*, with Audrey Fales as chair, will plan a pre-Christmas Scandinavian shopping trip to the Bay Area. They will also contact Sierra Kronan.
11. The Grand Lodge has proposed that lodges support selected charities. Our District has chosen the Salvation Army. The subject is being researched.
12. The Nominating Committee submitted a slate of officers for next year to be voted on at the October meeting. [The new officers will be listed in the November newsletter.]
13. Good of the Order:
 - Swedish Folk Dances will start September 11.
 - Books have been sorted: some will be kept for our library, others will be given to members, the rest will be donated to the Cultural Center in Santa Cruz.
 - Swedish language classes start September 14; beginner classes starting September 19.
14. Arlie Veis will be handling the program for next year's District Convention. There will be an 1890s theme in celebration of Vasa's 100th anniversary.
15. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read.

Brian Stockham,
Assistant Secretary

Nål och Tråd

We had a great first meeting of the season at Myrtle Widmark's on September 12. There were 11 members present, including John and Ruby Anderson all the way from Jackson.

In October, we will have one evening and one daytime meeting:

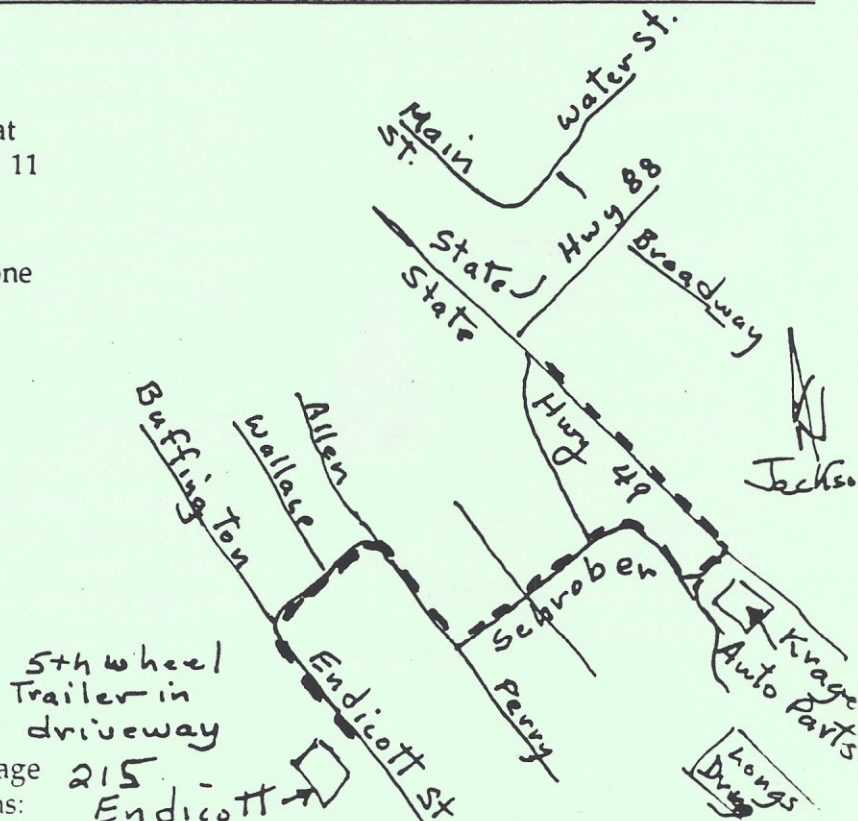
Tuesday, October 10, 7 PM

Jean Anderson
126 Hibiscus Avenue
Sacramento 95828
682-7438

Tuesday, October 24, 10 AM

John and Ruby Anderson
215 Endicott Street
Jackson 95642
(209)223-1049

Bring a brown bag lunch; dessert and beverage will be provided. Here is a map to the Andersons:



Dance Instructions

Excellent basic dance instructions in the waltz, hambo, and other Scandinavian dances are provided every Monday 7:00-9:30 PM at the Recreation Center, 4855 Hamilton Street in Sacramento. The fees are \$5 per class, \$15 per month, or \$25 for three months. Both partners and singles are welcome. Instructors are Dick Livingston and Sallie Odom, and you can get registration information by calling 482-8377.

— Myrtle Widmark



Norwegian Dinner

The Sons of Norway is having a Torsk & Lutefisk dinner, also with meatballs and lefse, on Saturday, October 21, at 770 Darina Avenue. Dinner will be served 5:00-7:30 PM followed by dancing. The price is \$13.50 for adults, \$5.00 for children 10 and under. For more information, call Irene Karlstad 381-8934 or Pearl Lemkuil 483-4496.

Just a Reminder

Don't forget to visit William Glen's Christmas shop in the Town & Country Village. It's open now. Their collection this year includes tiles, porcelain ornaments, napkins, and *tomtar*. Do drop by to see this beautiful display of Scandinavian items.



— Louise Sims

Free Publication

To get yourself an inspiring travelogue to Sweden, all you have to do is to request the Sweden Traveler from the

Swedish Travel &
Tourism Council
655 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017
Phone 212/949-2333
Fax 212/697-0835

This magazine is crammed with beautiful color pictures and practical up-to-date information. The 1995 edition contains pictures from "The Smallest Big City in the World," Gothenburg. Renowned photographer John Chang McCurdy has documented the Uppland province "where modern Sweden was born," and there is a feature on seven palaces around Stockholm. Spectacular pictures show some of the treasures in the newly opened tourist attraction, the Gold Room, at the Museum of National Antiquities as well as the glass art of four well-known artists. There are also articles about the Wilderness Train and cruising on the Göta Canal to whet your appetite for a holiday in Sweden.

[Ingrid Kennedy ordered the magazine, it arrived within two weeks, and she recommends it highly—especially since it's free.]

— Swedish Press, March 1995

Deadline

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

Children's Club

The children's group will be meeting this year on the second and fourth Monday of the month from 4:15 to 5:45 PM. If you know of a child interested in participating, please call Christi Kagstrom, 641-8770. The children will be learning Swedish songs, dances, and crafts.

Sweden Offers Unusual Golfing

There is only one golf course in the world where you can catch a game in the middle of the night. Not only that, you can cover two countries within the span of your game. The light comes courtesy of the midnight sun [at mid summer] at this Haparanda/Torneå course. Nine holes are on the Finnish side and nine on the Swedish side. To complicate matters further, there is a one-hour time difference so you may both lose and recover an hour during your game.

— Swedish Press, March 1995



If you move

please don't forget to inform someone in Monitor Lodge of your new address and phone number. We don't want you to miss out on any of our activities and we would miss seeing you.



**John Wright,
Member of
the Month**

Since my *morfar*
was born in Val-
berg, Sweden, in
1865 and my
mormor was

born in Linköping, Sweden, in
1874, I never had the opportunity
to know them. They passed way
before I was born. They both
emigrated to the United States in
1893.

My mother war born in West
Chicago in 1905. My brother and
I were born in Elmhurst, Illinois,
and brought up in nearby Glen
Ellyn. After graduating from
GlenBard High School in 1960, I
worked with my dad (of English
descent) in his print shop. When

he sold the shop, which he had
owned and operated for 35 years,
our whole family moved to
Yucaipa in Southern California.

For the next several years, I
attended San Bernadino Valley
Junior College, worked with a
Danish craftsman refinishing
furniture, and competed in bi-
cycle road racing. I went to work
for Security Pacific National Bank
in 1966 and worked at a number
of branches in Southern Califor-
nia before transferring to the
Arden Way branch in Sacramen-
to in 1974. I worked there until
obtaining the position of office
manager with Ray Grenz Con-
struction Co., Inc. in 1977 where
I am still employed.

I met my wife, Jewel, who
had lived near where I lived in

Citrus Heights and we were
married in 1980. We have three
children: Michael (24), Janel (20),
and Katie (soon to be 18). Janel
was a prior Monitor scholarship
recipient and participated in a
prior year's Sweden Day.

Since my grandparents were
immigrants in the late 1800s and
early 1900s, they felt that they
would be discriminated against if
they continued to speak Swedish
and act like "foreigners." There-
fore, their three children (includ-
ing my mother) were instructed
to speak only English and to
follow the American way.

Since joining Monitor Lodge, I
feel fortunate to have met many
Swedish and Swedish-American
people and to have learned many
facets of my Swedish heritage.

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

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