



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

Vol. 19, No. 9

November 1995



OUR NOVEMBER 3 BUSINESS MEETING will start at 7:00 PM (i.e., no dinner this time). We will have initiation of all our new members, and the meeting will be followed by refreshments and a cultural program. Make sure to put this on your calendar!

Chairman's Message

We had a great October meeting. Our meatball dinner turned out fantastic. Thanks to our cooks, Ernie, Ed, Arlie, and Bob and all the others who made it happen. You are all greatly appreciated!

We even had new members sign up. To paraphrase the baseball field movie: If you serve a great meal, they'll come. We even had members attend we hadn't seen for a while.

The business meeting following the dinner was very informal, open to everyone, including children. I believe everyone enjoyed it. As chairman, I sure did! Next year we'll keep our meetings informal more often.

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*

Deadline

for the December newsletter is **Friday, November 10**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Thank You

Jewell and John Wright, Myrtle Widmark, and everyone else who helped make our pancake breakfast a success! It was great: the weather was perfect, the turnout was very good with many repeat customers, and everyone enjoyed socializing.



Christmas Party

Plans are firming up for our Christmas *glögg* party and *smörgåsbord* on December 1. We do need to know if you plan to attend and what you can make for the *smörgåsbord*. *Tomten* will be there, and those who wish may participate in a \$3.00 gift exchange.

This promises to be an outstanding event. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and please contact Birgitta Ostlund at 682-2285 or Margaret Carlson at 742-9346.



Talking about Christmas

don't forget to stop by William Glen's Christmas store to see all the Swedish ornaments, books, tiles, trays, napkins, *tomtar*, and much, much more. It's a really beautiful display!

— Louise Simms

Happy Birthday!

11/01 - Anne Phelan
11/04 - Viola Hallen
11/06 - Louise Amundsen
11/06 - Kerstin Doze
11/07 - Wendy Strand
11/09 - William Dyckman
11/10 - Joyce Trnka
11/11 - Richard Eriksson
11/11 - Launna K. Nelson
11/13 - Donna Niemoller
11/16 - Russell Ellis
11/16 - Jeannine Lokey
11/19 - Alice Axberg
11/19 - Christine Kagstrom
11/23 - Kathy Goldsberry
11/24 - Lillian Stafford
11/25 - Terry Tillman
11/26 - Gloria Eriksson
11/27 - Barbara Olson
11/30 - Thelma Range
11/30 - Janice Sjogren



Telephone Committee

Elizabeth Johnson and Myrtle Widmark are updating the telephone caller lists. We need more callers to reduce the number of calls each caller has to make. Please contact Elizabeth (452-2470) or Myrtle (481-4056). We really need help.

You Can Call Me

⇒ **Member of the Month: Thomas T. Anderson** ←

I was born in New York City in 1944, son of Mary Anderson, an immigrant from Germany in 1924, and Theodore Anderson, descendant of generations of "Anderssons" that had immigrated from Sweden. Before I was 2 years old, we moved to Hayward in the Bay Area, where I first started school. In 1952, my parents bought a farm in Elk Grove and raised beef cattle. My mother also operated a convalescence home in the Bay Area.

As the farming business progressed, we moved to different properties but stayed in Elk Grove. Mother gave up her business in the Bay Area and opened The Elk Grove Rest Home. At that time she decided it would be a good idea for me to go to school in Hamburg, Germany, and learn the language. I attended 2 years of school and returned to the US in 1959.



Next year, I was off again to Germany to go through a Tool & Die apprenticeship in conjunction with Mechanical Engineering studies. In 1963, after my studies, I accepted a position as Third Engineer on a German merchant vessel, traveling the west European coast and the Mediterranean. It was a good way to see a large part of Europe, the north African coast, and part of Russia from the Black Sea.

In 1964, after finishing two tours, I agreed to go with a friend of mine from school to work in Sweden. A friend of his had already been in Sweden a while, living in Uddevalla and working at the SAAB factory in the neighboring town of Trollhättan. We got employment there

also. My friend and I had visited Sweden earlier in our school days and liked Kristinehamn on the north-eastern side of Vänern, the largest lake in Sweden. We decided to eventually find employment and stay there.

I met Annika in Kristinehamn in 1964 and we were married in September 1965. The following year our first son Kaj was born, followed by Tim in 1968, and Ted in 1974. We lived in Sweden until we returned to the family farm in 1979. In February 1987, our daughter Jessica was born in Sacramento.

Since we returned to the United States, I have worked for SMUD, the CSUS School of Engineering, and I am now working for UC Davis Physics, hoping to eventually retire from there.

Minutes



The following are condensed minutes from the October 6 business meeting:

1. A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be kept informal.
2. Five membership applications were received.
3. Correction to the September minutes as printed in the last newsletter:
 - a. *Nål och Tråd* is not involved with Sweden in Bloom but will participate in the Turlock festival.
 - b. The lodge will contribute \$100 total (not per person) toward members' expenses while

attending membership and Sweden Day planning meetings October 21-22.

4. Betty Schoepf told about her visit to Bishop Hill, Illinois, and its historical background.
5. Our net profit from the pancake breakfast was \$147.61.
6. Margaret Carlson will submit a Monitor Christmas greeting for publication in the Vasa Star. The cost is \$10.
7. Christi Kagstrom is the new Children's Club leader. She is looking for potential members.
8. *Nål och Tråd* donated \$500 to the Scholarship Committee.
9. The 1996 program was read and accepted. [Will be published in the next newsletter.]
10. The slate of officers for next year was read and accepted.

11. Upcoming events:

- a. The *Smörgåsbord* and *glögg* party on December 1 will be free of charge for members.
- b. Volunteers are needed to man Monitor's table at the Community Heritage Day in Davis on October 21.
- c. Discussion was held on the purchase of a TV/VCR set on a cart (for language classes, Children's Club, etc.).
12. Noel Hogue said it's becoming common at Vasa lodges to hold informal meetings. Attendance improved when the San Jose lodge completely did away with ritualistic meetings.

— Brian Stockham,
Assistant Secretary

Volunteers

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of Judgement nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and foot stools,
Where there are no committee chairmen,
No group leaders or carpools.

No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale,
There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
and treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on earth!

— Author unknown

Nål och Tråd

We're busy working on Christmas things. There will be only one meeting in November:

Tuesday, November 7, 7 PM

Dorothy Mogford

181 Whispering Pines

(Mobile Country Club MHP)

Rancho Cordova, phone 635-4541

— Jean Anderson

Address Changes

Richard & Gloria Eriksson

11936 Silver Cliff Way

Gold River, CA 95670

(Phone is the same: 635-4640)

John & Mai Loken

9045 Northcote Road

Santee, CA 92071-4704

(We don't have their new phone number)

Lynn Lundberg

5245 Cedar Ridge Drive

Auburn, CA 95602-9188

(Phone number, Lynn?)



April Dues Anniversaries

Alice Axberg

Lisa Bleasdale

Elizabeth Bushnell

Helen and Rod Dyckman

Ellen Herting

Gertrud Kauffman

Michelle Kauffman

Erika Lewis

Janice and Roy Sjogren

Sophia Swanson

Janice Woodruff

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



Have

a very nice

Thanksgiving!



Civil War Swedes

Almost 3,000 men from the Swedish communities around America took active part in the American Civil War 1861-65. Swedes fought on both sides though the majority of them were to be found on the Union side. It was natural for Swedes to be more partial towards the North. Freedom was important to Swedes and many of them took a stand against slavery. A few Swedes also came all the way from Sweden to take part in the battles. In these cases the monetary lure played a big part.

— Swedish Press, March 1995

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

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