



# The Monitor

## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 20, No. 2

February 1996



MONITOR'S FIRST SOCIAL for 1996 will be held on Friday, February 2. Refreshments will start at 6:00 PM and our popular Swedish pea soup and pancake supper will be served at 6:30. You get all you can eat for just \$4.50 with children under 12 free.

Pea soup with ham and a dessert of Swedish pancakes with *lingon* is a traditional Thursday night meal throughout Sweden.

No business meeting will be held, so this would be a good time to bring family, friends, and prospective members. (See date for special business meeting.)

"Remember when" they always used to play Bingo? Well, that's what we will be doing this time. We have some great prizes. And for those who prefer it, we will also have a poker party.

See you all on the 2nd!

### Chairman's Message

As I begin my third term as your chairman, I want to thank you for having all this confidence in me. Believe me, I would much rather be in the background and help the guys out in the kitchen. It's all of you who are making this lodge so great.

This year we're having a dinner almost every meeting. The prices are great and there is no place in town where you can get such a big meal at such a small

price. So mark the first Friday of every month on your calendar: "Must to go Monitor Lodge!"

The Vasa Order of America is also celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, so every meeting will have a special "I remember when..." program.

We had a good 1995 and I thank everyone for supporting the officers and your lodge. Now let's make 1996 another banner year!

*In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

*We lost our delightful friend and very active member Karin Bodelson unexpectedly on January 4. She was a valued contributor in all our activities for many years.*

*A graduate of Boston's Simmons College, she worked as a legal secretary and a church secretary in Boston and New York. She came to Sacramento in 1986. In addition to all her work in our lodge, Karin was active in the Arden Christian Church. She will be buried with her husband Eric in Flushing, New York.*

*Our hearts go out to Karin's daughter Christine and her family and to Karin's close friend and sister-in-law, Viola Bodelson. Christine and Viola are also long-time active Monitor members.*

### Next Business Meeting

Since we want to devote our February 2 meeting to "all pleasure and no work," we will conduct our business at a separate meeting on **Wednesday, February 14, 7 PM**. We'll be at Ingrid Kennedy's house, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova.

If you're coming from Sacramento on highway 50, take the Mather AFB exit, turn left on Mather Field Road, right on Folsom Blvd, and left on Coloma Road. You'll be passing St. John Vianne Catholic Church, where we had a couple of Scandinavian Festivals. Shortly thereafter turn left on Mills Ranch Way and right on Apple Grove Way. Number 10582 is the fourth house on your right.



### A Big THANK YOU

to Sierra Kronan Lodge in Roseville for hosting the joint installation of our new officers. It was a well-organized and properly dignified occasion—followed by plentiful and absolutely delicious refreshments. Sierra Kronan members had put a lot of work into making this a very successful event.



## Condensed Minutes from January 5, 1996, Meeting



1. Meeting was opened at 7:15 pm and roll was called.
2. Minutes from the November 1995 meeting were approved.
3. Friendship Committee:
  - The charter was draped in honor of Helen Tura and Karin Bodelson.
  - Audrey Fales was ill when she returned from her trip to Italy but is better now.
  - Members had been visiting Inez Norling, Marge Skicklig, George Uffens, Viola Hallen, and Henry Hjersman.
4. Filling in for the Cultural Leader, Audrey Fales spoke about the beautiful complimentary issue of Sweden in America we all have received. Copies of The Bridge were available at the meeting. New 5-year histories are being compiled and Audrey would like input, especially from long-time members.
5. All input to The Vasa Star should be sent via the district Vasa reporter (except obituaries).
6. Myrtle Widmark will confer with Sierra Kronan about a joint afternoon event at the International House in Davis, possibly in March.
7. The trustees will have the storage shed removed from Viola Hallen's property.
8. The meeting voted to spend up to \$500 for a TV. Art Niemoller is donating a VCR.

9. Correspondence included:
  - Letter from Barbara Olson requesting lodge year-end reports and mentioning anniversary charitable projects (District has selected the Salvation Army.
  - Renewal request from the National Archives. (Voted down.)
10. Future events:
  - Swedish pea soup and pancake dinner on February 2 (strictly a social event).
  - A separate business meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 7:30, at Ingegerd Kennedy's house.
  - The next Scandinavian Festival planning meeting will take place on January 8 at the Sons of Norway Hall.
  - Margaret Carlson and Marianne Ek are researching a bus trip to Bay Area Scandinavian shops.
11. Delegates to the next district convention are Ingegerd Kennedy, Gail Nemy, Betty Schoepf, and Lisma Krastins with Ethel Johnson and Jean Anderson as alternates.
12. Marianne Ek presented thank-you gifts to Myrtle Widmark and Margaret Carlson.
13. Robert and Ann-Catrin Titus lost their memberships for being too far behind on their dues despite several reminders.
14. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read.
15. Meeting closed at 8:50.

- Brian Stockham,  
Assistant Secretary

## February Dues Anniversaries

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

Evelyn Anderson  
Annika & Thomas Anderson  
Mirjam Auger  
Jean Barney  
Robert Barrett  
Sue Bergman  
Keith Bergstrom  
Kevin Bergstrom  
Russel Ellis  
Bertil Erickson  
Anne and Hans Fors  
Julius Holmquist  
Helen Jensen

Ethel Johnson  
Lynn Lundberg  
Debbie Nickless  
Lilmer Olson  
Lars Ostlund  
Anne Phelan  
Louise Sims  
Cecile Spencer  
Brian and Jill Stockham  
Ruth Volkoff  
Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the next meeting or by mail to financial secretary Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

## For More Information about Monitor Lodge, Please Contact

- Membership Committee members Jean Anderson 682-7438, Ethel Johnson 457-0966, or Arlie Veis at 489-5729.
- Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-1015
- Vice Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330
- Chairman Margaret Carlson, 742-9346



## Address Change

Evelyn Anderson  
El Camino Gardens  
2426 Garfield Ave. #12B  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
972-0870



## Nål och Tråd

**Tuesday, February 13, 10 am:**

Dorothy Mogford  
181 Whispering Pines  
(Mobile Country Club MHP)  
Rancho Cordova, 635-4541

Bring brown bag lunch. Coffee and dessert provided.

**Tuesday, February 27, 7 pm:**

Elizabeth Johnson  
4332 T Street, 452-2470



## Program Books

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the program books will be late this year. In the meantime, enclosed is another copy of the 1996 calendar prepared by our lodge.



## Cookbook

Please support the lodge in the purchase of a cookbook from the Grange. It's only \$6.50 and contains many good recipes. The book also makes a good gift.

In spite of the Grange having a bad year, they have not raised our rent, and we would like to show our appreciation.



## Happy Birthday!



2/06 - Cecile Spencer  
2/02 - Lucy Dahlberg  
2/03 - Mimi Hjersman  
2/03 - Mary Ingvarlsen  
2/04 - Kevin Bergstrom  
2/04 - Stanley Hagstrom  
2/05 - Annabel Audet  
2/05 - Lisa Bleasdale  
2/06 - Charles Johnson  
2/08 - Milo Ahlstrand  
2/08 - Helen J. Starkey  
2/09 - Ethel Johnson  
2/09 - Ruth Volkoff  
2/10 - Carol Kwolek  
2/11 - Maude Udvardy  
2/13 - Jill Stockham  
2/18 - Richard Westrup  
2/19 - Kurt Pfannkuch  
2/20 - Audrey Fales  
2/22 - Jone Canady  
2/22 - Marie Tillman  
2/24 - Hans Fors  
2/26 - Vera Anderson  
2/26 - Birgit Dillard



## Beet Salad

Here is the popular beet salad Louise Centers brought to our *smörgåsbord* in December:

2 cans julienne style beets  
1 can (20 oz) crushed pineapple  
3/8 cup vinegar  
2 tbls sugar  
6 oz box raspberry Jello  
1 cup walnuts  
Juice from 2 lemons

Drain the juice from beets and pineapple. Add vinegar, sugar, and juice from lemons making sure you have 4 cups liquid only (add water if necessary). Bring to a boil. Add Jello and let dissolve. Add remaining ingredients and let set.

## Friendship Committee

★ We received a nice thank-you and picture from our Lucia, Anna Canady. She enjoyed being Lucia and thanked us for the pendant we presented to her.

★ Vicki Lydecker sent a note with thanks for our sympathy in the loss of her mother.

★ Gerda Anderson needs our thoughts as she's in bed most of the time with arthritis in her legs.

★ Charles Badgley has had a hard time. His heart stopped 19 times before they got his pace maker in and working. He is now in bed most of the time.

★ Donna Niemoller broke a bone in her foot. She will be in a cast for a while.

★ We hear that Marge Skicklig is doing a little better.

★ Several of our members have been sick with this crazy flu that's been going around. Hope everyone is feeling better now.

## Come and Watch TV

Our last meeting voted to buy a TV so we'll be able to show videos at various occasions such as cultural events. Art Niemoller is donating the VCR.

## THE SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL

on April 13 is coming up fast. It's a major production that can't be carried out by just a few people. We need help, not only at the festival itself but also in the planning stages. Please come to the next planning meeting, Monday, February 5, 7 pm, at the Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. (We have a good time at these meetings and refreshments are served.) For more information, please call Ethel Johnson at 457-0966.

## Items of Interest

✓ Harri Pellonpaa, 17, won a weekend at a Lapland resort for finishing first in the World Championship of Mosquito Killing in Finland.

✓ Ilpo Ronkko won Finland's annual Wife-Carrying Championship, in which men tote women over a 780-foot course that includes two fences and a waist-high pool of water.

— *Entertainment Star*, 12/13/95  
Submitted by Liesma Krastins



## Scandinavian Dancing

Singles and couples are welcome to come and learn hambo, schottis, waltz, and more. These are **ongoing Monday classes at 4855 Hamilton Street, Sacramento 95841**, phone 482-8377.

7:30-8:00 pm – Introductory level  
8:00-9:00 pm – Intermediate level  
9:00-9:30 pm – Request dancing

The fee is \$10 monthly for introductory and \$15 monthly for intermediate levels or \$5 per class.

— Submitted by Myrtle Widmark

## Deadline

for the March newsletter is **Friday, February 16**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

## Did You Know

that 87.1 percent of the electorate took part in the last Swedish election?

— *Swedish Press*, Oct 94

## A Scandinavian Afternoon

will be held at the International House in Davis on March 16.



The Executive Director of the International House, Patrick Widner, visited our Scandinavian

Festival and was impressed by the activities of the Scandinavian groups in Sacramento. He has invited us to hold a Scandinavian event at the Davis International House. The house is a donated nice, large family home that includes cooking facilities. Myrtle Widmark and Naomi Kennedy of Sierra Kronan toured the home to see how we can display information about the various Scandinavian countries and our organizations.

The suggestion for a joint Saturday afternoon event was discussed at the last Scandinavian Festival meeting. Everyone thought it was a good way to spread the word around our community and surrounding areas, so people would know about us.

We will need help to put up posters and pictures, show videos, have newspapers and magazines to pass out, maps, country information, etc. We would also have refreshments typical of each country (cookies, bread, sandwiches, etc.) for the visitors. It would certainly add to the event if you have a costume to wear,



musical instrument to play, or can sing or dance.

Let's hear your ideas and please sign up to help. We'll have more information in the March newsletter.

— Myrtle Widmark



## Am I Really Needed?

Xvxn though my typxwritx is an old modxl, it works wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx kxys. I'vx wishxd many timxs that it workxd proprxly. Trux, thxrx arx 42 kxys that function, but onx kxy not working makxs a big diffxrxncx. Somx timxs, it sxxms to mx that our organization is somxwhat likx my typx writx—not all thx pxopl arx working proprxly at all timxs. You might say, "Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson. It won't makx much diffxrxncx." But you sxx, an organization, to bx sufficixnt, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxrson. So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxxdxd, rxmxxbxx my typxwritx and say to your-sxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson and thxy nxxed mx vxry much."

— Anonymous



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!

## The Viking Ship (See cover page)

The Vikings ruled the seas from 800 to 1050 AD. It's no wonder that the design and sturdiness of the boats has been the subject of many studies. There is no doubt that the Vikings really mastered the art of boat-making, and the navigation standards they achieved remained unmatched until the beginning of this century. Besides having perfect lines and being seaworthy, Viking ships had a great deal of agility. The Vikings were able to spin their ships around almost on their axis during battles.

Most of the ships were 55-90 feet long and were used either as cargo ships, warships, or ferries. The typical design stressed lightness and resilience. Other classic features included tapered ends with a smoothly curved transition between keel and stern. The ship was steered by a lateral rudder placed at the stern end on the right side of the navigation direction. The propelling force was a combination of sails and oars. The ship had one mast and one rectangular sail. The difference between warships and merchant ships lay in their width. Merchants were wide and depended more on the wind than on manpower. Because warships had to be fast, they were low and narrow and their oar holes ran the full length of the ship, harnessing both the wind and the strength of the crew. The best examples of Viking ships today can be seen at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde in Denmark.

So revered were their treasured vessels, the Vikings had them buried with them as they made the trip to Valhalla, their afterlife.

— From *Scandinavian Press*, Autumn 1995

## North America Discovered

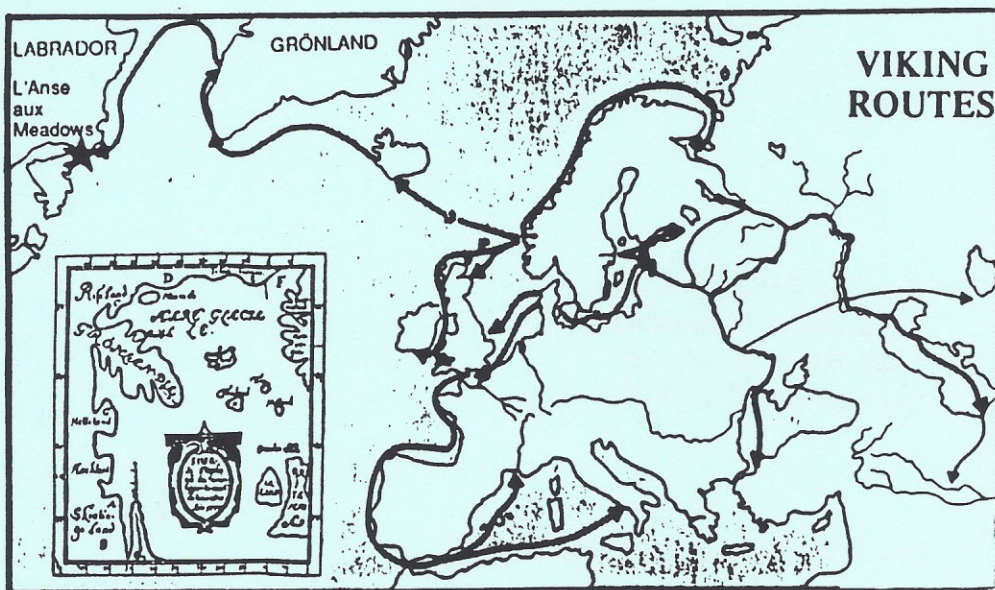
In 1497, some fishermen discovered what is today called Newfoundland. Its capital, St. Johns, is the oldest town in North America. However, 510 years earlier—in the year 987—a Viking by the name of Leif had sailed into Pistolet Bay. He called the area Vinland and stayed over the winter, sailing back to Greenland the following spring.

In 1002, Thorfin Karlsefni sailed to Vinland with 160 men and 5 women in 4 ships, intending to settled down. According to the legends, the vikings were repeatedly attacked by the native inhabitants and returned to Greenland after three years.

The village they had built was situated at a place now called L'Anse aux Meadows—the only place in North America where we have proof that Vikings lived there. At L'Anse aux Meadows, there is now a national park with an excellent exhibition hall. Eight viking houses were excavated but have again been covered up to preserve them for the future. Instead, three new houses have been built with the same materials used by the Vikings. The houses look the same as the original houses to give visitors an idea of what it looked like when the Vikings lived there.

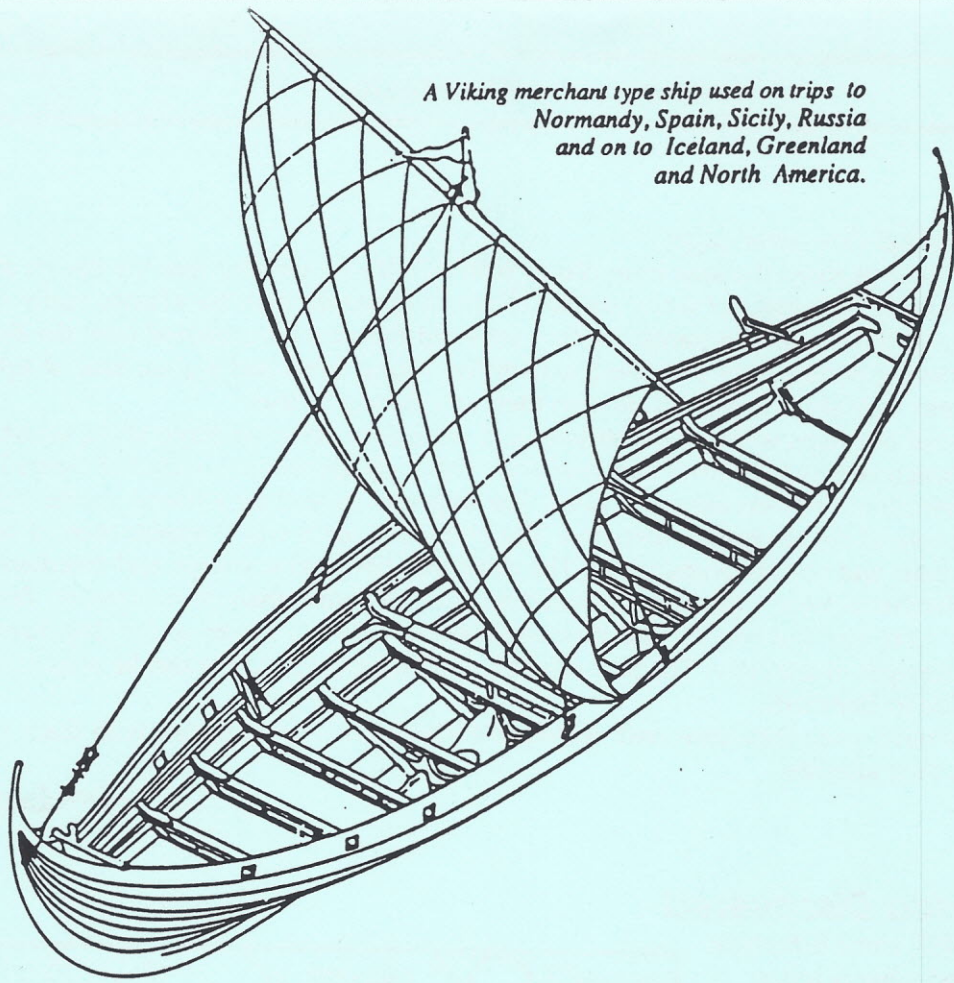
L'Anse is worth a visit. Icebergs float by quietly and, if you're lucky, you may see whales. Visitors can follow "the Viking trail" to L'Anse aux Meadows and sail in a reconstructed viking ship.

[The picture shows Viking travel routes. The inset is a Viking map copied in 1570.]



— *Swedish Press*, November 1995

*A Viking merchant type ship used on trips to  
Normandy, Spain, Sicily, Russia  
and on to Iceland, Greenland  
and North America.*



**Monitor Lodge No. 218  
Vasa Order of America  
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