

## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896*

Vol. 20, No. 5

May 1996

**O**UR MAY MEETING WILL OFFER ANOTHER great dinner with the men cooking for us women. What a treat! It's on May 3 with refreshments at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30. This is not only our *Mors Dag* dinner but also a special children's night: they will be part of the program, with a special guest dressed like a troll telling us troll stories. We'll have music, special awards, hopefully a scholarship recipient, a beautiful afghan raffled off—and all this for only \$5 for men and \$2.50 for women.

No business meeting this time.

### **Chairman's Message**

All of us in Monitor Lodge have been busy, busy, busy during the past month—and we'll continue to be busy in the months to come. Be sure to mark you calendar and attend all the great functions coming up.

We had a wonderful anniversary potluck dinner, thanks to all our good cooks. Inez Norling celebrated her 99th birthday with us, and she looked great! Bea Dillard donated one of her beautiful Easter eggs to be raffled off with Alice Axberg the lucky winner. The trustees, our hosts for the evening, had the hall looking very festive. THANKS TO ALL FOR A GREAT EVENING!

Our Scandinavian Festival was fantastic. We actually ran out of food as well as space for vendors. I don't have the figures yet, but it looked like we had record attendance. TACK, TACK to everyone who worked so hard to make this such a success. Special thanks to **Ellen Harrod**, the overall festival coordinator, to **Ethel Johnson** who was Monitor's representative on the festival committee, and to **Arlie Veis** who put together and smoothly executed an excellent program.

*In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

### **A Feast for Vikings**

A real Swedish herring brunch with all the trimmings will be offered on **Saturday, May 25**. Please note that the date is wrong in our program book! We'll be at the Pfannkuchs again, at 1921 Columbia Drive, Yuba City. Refreshments start at 10:30 AM and the brunch will be served at 11:00. The price is only \$5 for this big feast.

For you new members, it's easy to find: It's a smooth and scenic drive up highway 99. Just before you get to Yuba City, turn right on Bogue Road, go about

three blocks, and turn left on Columbia Drive. Please car pool and offer to take a Viking friend who doesn't drive. Bring a card table or at least a chair to sit on.



### **Nål och Tråd**

**When:** Tuesday, May 24

**Where:** At Dorothy Mogford's house, 181 Whispering Pines, Rancho Cordova. Her phone is 635-4541 if you need more information.

### **Next Business Meeting**

We'll conduct this month's business on **Wednesday, May 8, at 7 PM**. The place is 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 the big St. John Vianney Church and Georgetown Drive on your left. Very shortly thereafter, turn left on Mills Ranch Way and then right on Apple Grove Way.

*"Med en enkel tulipan  
uppå bemärkelseda'n  
vi har den äran  
vi har den äran  
att gratulera..."*

♪ ♪ ♪

5/03 - Deidre Dahlberg  
5/04 - Debbie Nickless  
5/05 - Betty J. Schoepf  
5/05 - Louise Sims  
5/05 - Don Johnson  
5/06 - Elizabeth Coleman  
5/11 - Christine Bodelson  
5/12 - Charles Linn  
5/12 - Myrtle Widmark  
5/14 - LaVerne Gilbertson  
5/15 - Nancy Misenti  
5/16 - B. Kay Ericson  
5/18 - Mirjam Auger  
5/18 - Charles Nelson  
5/18 - John Wright  
5/25 - Frances Misenti  
5/25 - George Uffens

★

### May Dues Anniversaries

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

Christine Bodelson

Marianne Ek

Jeanne Hanson

Mimi Hjersman

Astrid Horyza

Charles Johnson

Jeanine Lokey

Eivor & Kurt Pfannkuch

Thelma Range

David Swanson

Durl Van Alstyne

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

### Help Wanted!

All available men are needed for our *Mors Dag* dinner: kitchen help, set-up, serving, clean-up—anything would be appreciated. Check with Ernie Skorheim 482-7039.

### Upcoming Events

★ Please note, all prospective members! We will have a member **initiation ceremony** at our June 7 meeting—and there won't be another initiation until fall.

★ Don't forget our very special **Bay Area Bus Trip** on Saturday, July 13! We need 20 more reservations by June 1 or we might have to cancel this trip. Please call Marianne Ek right away at 372-1015. [A separate flyer on this event was enclosed with our April newsletter.]

★ Our **post-Scandinavian Festival potluck** meeting will take place on Monday, May 13, 6 PM, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. Everyone is welcome!

★ As this newsletter goes to press, we're looking forward to the **District Convention** on 26-28 April, which will also celebrate The Vasa Order of America's 100th anniversary. The convention theme will be "The Gay Nineties." Donn and Lillian Stafford will receive their 50-year membership pins. We'll have a convention report in our next newsletter for those who were unable to attend.

★ And don't forget the annual **Swedish Festival at Kingsburg** May 16-19. It includes a pea soup and pancake supper, *smörgåsbord*, the traditional Midsummer pole, and a parade.

### Events in Santa Cruz

In observance of the Vasa Centennial Celebration and the Immigration Jubilee, the Scandinavian Cultural Center of Santa Cruz has scheduled several Swedish events. For more information, call Chuck or Barb Olson at (408) 438-4307 or contact the Cultural Center at P.O. Box 2411, Santa Cruz, CA 95963.

**May 11, 2 pm** – An afternoon with Dr. Glen Seaborg, Nobel Prize Winner, Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley, and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, among other things. This will be at St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 2500 Sequel in Santa Cruz.

**June 7, 6:30 pm** – A "Midsummer in Santa Cruz" with potluck *smörgåsbord*, and a program of singing, dancing, and a Midsummer pole, featuring Charlotta Löndahl from Växjö who will be singing Swedish folk songs.

**June 13, 7:30 pm** – The large Malmö Brass band will be performing a wide-ranging repertoire at the Community Covenant Church, El Rancho Drive off Highway 17 between Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz.

**July 12-13** – A Viking Faire at the Viking Hall, 240 Plymouth Street, Santa Cruz, will have folk dancers from Stockholm Friday at 7:30 pm and an all-day program with entertainment and vendors on Saturday.



## Deadline



The news-  
letter editor is  
going to Swe-  
den for a 3-  
week vacation  
in mid-June.

This means she'll have to finish the next newsletter a little earlier in the month than usual. So the deadline for the June newsletter is **Friday, June 7**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.



## For More Information about Monitor Lodge, Please Contact

- Membership Committee members Jean Anderson 682-7438, Arlie Veis at 489-5729, or Eivor Pfannkuch, 673-5917;
- Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-1015;
- Vice Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330; or
- Chairman Margaret Carlson, 742-9346.



## Bergman's Back

Ingmar Bergman, 78, who officially retired from film making in 1982, will again stand behind the camera in September directing a new film, referred to as "Making Noises," based on his own screenplay.

— Submitted by Liesma Krastins



## Did You Know?

Of Sweden's 8.8 million inhabitants, 85 percent live in the southern half of the country.

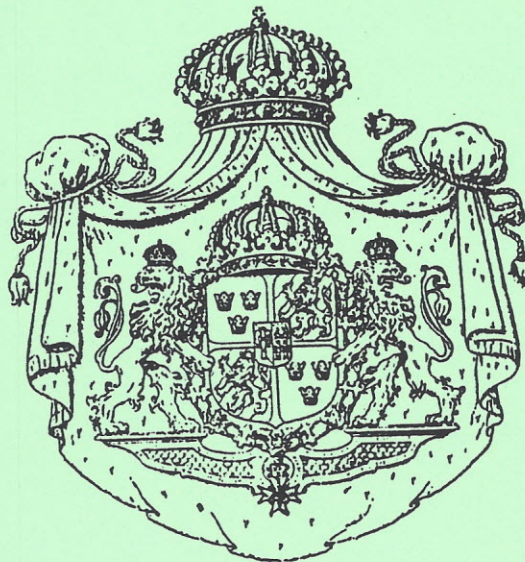
— From "Images of Sweden," 1995

## Sweden's National Symbols

It's not known exactly how far back the colors and design of the Swedish flag goes, but the oldest recorded pictures of a blue cloth with a yellow cross date from the 16th century. In 1569, a royal warrant decreed that the yellow cross should always be borne on Swedish battle standards and banners, as the Swedish Coat of Arms was blue divided quarterly by a cross of gold. The design of the Swedish flag is probably adopted from the Danish flag, and the blue and yellow colors probably emanate from the Coat of Arms. Not until the 1620s, during the reign of Gustav II Adolf, are there reliable evidence of the blue flag with a yellow cross being carried by Swedish vessels.

Sweden has two Coat of Arms, the Lesser and the Greater. The Lesser Coat of Arms, the more frequently used, is blue with three crowns of gold, two over one. A closed crown is upper imposed on the escutcheon which is sometimes encircled with the chain of the Order of the Seraphim. The order of the Seraphim, established in 1748, is Sweden's most distinguished order.

The triple crown device has been used as the emblem of Sweden at least since 1336, when it had long been a familiar symbol of the "three wise kings." According to one theory, King Magnus Eriksson (1319-1364) adopted the device to symbolize his title as "King of Sweden, Norway, and Scania."



The Greater Coat of Arms is that of the monarch and used on special occasions by the Government and the Parliament. Its arrangement dates from as early as the 1440s when it was used in the seal of King Karl Knutsson Bonde. The escutcheon is divided quarterly and charged with the triple crown device and the Folkunga lion (the arms of the ruling house of Sweden 1250-1364). In the center are the arms of the current ruling house. In the early 19th century, they were the arms adopted by then newly elected Crown Prince, the French marshal, Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, who acceded to the Swedish throne as King Karl XIV Johan. These arms represent the Vasa dynasty (1523-1654) together with the bridge representing the Principality of Ponte Corvo in Italy (given to Bernadotte by the Emperor Napoleon in 1806), complemented by the Napoleonic eagle and seven stars.

— From "Swedish Press," Sep. 95



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