



The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 20, No. 9

November 1996



OUR NEXT MEETING WILL be held on **Friday, November 1**. There will be no dinner this time but lots of other good things happening.

Our business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. We will vote on new officers [nominees listed on page 2 of this newsletter] and on our program for the next year [see October newsletter]. *Nål och Tråd* is host this time. Please bring a plate of sandwiches or some cookies to enjoy after our meeting. Also, as part of our program, please bring a canned food item (or several) that we may give to needy families.

We will initiate the new members who couldn't make it to the September meeting.

Chairman's Message

If you didn't come to our October dinner and *maskerad* party, you missed out on good food and great fun. We had some really fine costumes. Tom Andersson was truly a "real" Viking and won the prize for best costume. Gail Nemy won the beautiful afghan we raffled off. Donna Niemoller decorated the best pumpkin. It was fun and we thank everyone who helped make it so.

November promises to be another busy meeting. *Nål och Tråd* will have a table to sell

things they have made during the year. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping!

Also keep in mind that we're having our *smörgåsbord* in December. Mark it on your calendar now. We'll be needing lots of help as well as your culinary skills to make this a big success.

See you all at our November meeting!

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*

IN MEMORIAM

Martha Fredrikson, long-time valued member of Monitor Lodge, passed away October 7 while visiting relatives in Portland, Oregon.

Cards can be sent to the Dawson Family, 4315 N.E. 62nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97218. The memorial service will be held in Sacramento. Our phone committee will call with details as soon as they are available.

THANK YOU

to a very generous member who has donated \$1,000 to Monitor Lodge in memory of her husband. We will be sure to put the money to very good use on behalf of all our members.

Friendship Committee

■ We're all thinking of **Jean Anderson** who is having a lot of tests done and going through a very difficult time.

■ New member **Ingrid Gilchrist** just had surgery and we wish her well.

■ **Sophie Swanson** had radical surgery and we wish speedy recovery.

■ The **Caldwells'** 17-year-old daughter **Karly** suffered a severe bike accident and was in a coma for several weeks. Fortunately, she's much improved and in daily therapy.

Nål och Tråd

The next meeting will be held at 7 PM at the home of Ethel Johnson, 4344 53rd Street, Sacramento.

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

■ Chairman **Margaret Carlson**, 742-9346

New Officers

Here are the nominations for Monitor's 1997 officers on whom we'll be voting at our November meeting:

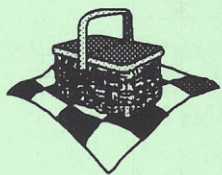
Chairman: Art Niemoller
 Vice Chairman: Marianne Ek
 Secretary: Brian Stockham
 Asst Secretary: Lillian Stanley
 Financial Secretary: Karin Dorey
 Asst Fin.Sec: Ingegerd Kennedy
 Treasurer: Betty Schoepf
 Cultural Leaders:
 Annika Andersson
 Birgitta Ostlund
 Chaplain: Carol Churkin
 Master of Ceremonies:
 Liesma Krastins
 Asst Master of Ceremonies:
 Michael Churkin
 Inner Guard: Jill Stockham
 Outer Guard: Dorothy Mogford
 Historian: Gail Nemy
 Trustee (3 yrs): Paul Gullans
 Auditor (3 yrs): Russ Ellis

Here again is our lodge's address on the Internet (also featuring our newsletter):

<http://member.aol.com/vasa218/vasindx1.htm>

If you have any questions about this site, call Terry Tillman.

Heritage Day



The International House in Davis is holding a Community Heritage Day on Saturday, October 19, 11 AM-5 PM, at the Central Park in Davis. For information, call 753-5007.

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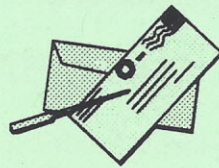
Best in Europe

Mail services in Sweden, Denmark, and Finland are the best in Europe, according to a survey done by Price Waterhouse.

The agency mailed 1.3 million letters to places all over Europe to check how the mail services live up to their goal of delivering international mail within three days. 69.1 percent of the mail made it on time.

Sweden and Finland are the two countries where deliveries are most likely to arrive within the three days. Denmark is best with outgoing mail.

Companies in Finland, Denmark, and Sweden are also best at paying their bills of all European countries. Finnish companies pay their bills after 24 days on average, Danish companies in 35 days, and Swedish companies in 37 days.



Curb on Salaries

Sweden and Finland are urging the European Commission to clamp down on high salaries paid to commission officials, reportedly earning up to 1.3 million Swedish kronor a year.

The Prime Minister in Sweden earns 780,000 kronor a year.

— *Scandinavian Press, Spring 1996*

Deadline

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

Happy Birthday this month to:



11/01 - Anne Phelan
 11/04 - Viola Hallen
 11/05 - Gary Baker
 11/06 - Louise Amundsen
 11/06 - Kerstin Doze
 11/06 - Ingrid Gilchrist
 11/07 - Wendy Strand
 11/09 - William Dyckman
 11/10 - Joyce Trnka
 11/11 - Richard Eriksson
 11/11 - Launna K. Nelson
 11/12 - Linda A. McShane
 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

What is Life?

Life is a challenge . . . meet it.
 Life is a gift . . . accept it.
 Life is an adventure . . . dare it.
 Life is a sorrow . . . overcome it.
 Life is a tragedy . . . face it.
 Life is a duty . . . perform it.
 Life is a game . . . play it.
 Life is a mystery . . . unfold it.
 Life is a song . . . sing it.
 Life is an opportunity . . . take it.
 Life is a journey . . . complete it.
 Life is a promise . . . fulfill it.
 Life is a beauty . . . praise it.
 Life is a struggle . . . fight it.
 Life is a goal . . . achieve it.
 Life is a puzzle . . . solve it.
 Life is Love . . . love it!

— *Author Unknown*
 Submitted by Don Johnson

Condensed Minutes from Aug 17 Meeting

This was a short, informal meeting held prior to the crayfish party.

1. Correspondence included
 - a. Request for contribution to the Vasa Centennial Dinner. Officers agreed to send \$50.
 - b. Flyers for the '97 district convention in San Jose.
 - c. Replacement page for '96 Program Book.
2. Kudos from Art Niemoller to the organizers of the bus trip to Bay Area Scandinavian shops. Art would like to see another trip before Christmas.
3. Officers will be elected at the November meeting. In addition, the following appointments have been made:

Children's Club:

Christy Kagstrom

Vasa Star correspondent:

LaVerne Gullans

Membership (3 years):

Eivor Pfannkuch

Friendship Committee:

Carol Churkin/Marianne Ek

Scholarship Committee:

Ronny Kagstrom and

Vicki Lydecker

— Brian Stockham,
Assistant Secretary

Condensed Minutes from Sep 6 Meeting

1. Roll was called and minutes from May and June were approved as published.
2. Five new members were initiated.
3. Louise Sims and Myrtle Widmark have been cataloging library books.
4. Cards for members not feeling well were available to be signed by members after the meeting.
5. The question of Salvation Army donation was tabled until a future meeting.

6. Correspondence included:
 - a. Offer from *Swedish Press* to send a free copy of the magazine to all members if we send labels.
 - b. Valhalla lodge newsletter.
 - c. Request for two delegates to the Cultural Convention and Sweden Day meeting.
 - d. Letter from District on charity drive.
7. Motion passed to pay for gas and lodging for delegates to the Cultural Convention and Sweden Day meeting.
8. Suggestions for additional bus trips next year, possibly to Tahoe or the Turlock Festival.
9. Visiting Helen and Joe Mingram welcomed new members.
10. New member Ingrid Gilchrist was instrumental in monitor's presence at the State Fair.

— Brian Stockham,
Assistant Secretary

November Dues Anniversaries

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

Barbara and Tom Anderson

Alice Axberg

Lisa Bleasdale

Elizabeth Bushnell

Helen and Rod Dyckman

Ellen Herting

Gertrud Kauffman

Michelle Kauffman

Erika Lewis

Ivan and Patricia Page

Linda McShane

Janice and Roy Sjogren

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. If you would like a receipt and membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Roster Additions

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mindy Patterson
1421 new England Drive
Roseville, CA 95661
773-6762

Ingrid Gilchrist
1500 7th Street, #8M
Sacramento, CA 95814
442-6665

Larry Hultquist
8836 Piedra Way
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
961-3517

Dee and David Benson
1612 Francisco Drive
Eldorado Hills, CA 95762
933-5502

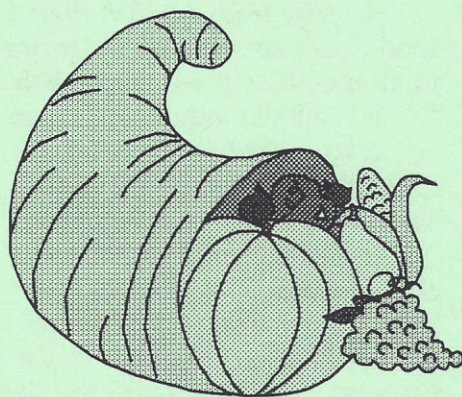
Also, here is a change of address:
Brian and Jill Stockham
10931 Bruceville Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758
683-3078



The Dala Horse

In the 18th century, woodcutters carved horses by the fireplace in their wooden huts to pass the time in the evenings. In the 19th century, the tradition of painting in colorful Dala patterns began. How, in the 20th century, the Dala horse has become the most typical Swedish souvenir—although, as the name suggests, it in fact belongs in the Province of Dalarna.





Happy Thanksgiving!

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

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