

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 21. No. 3

March 1997

IN MARCH WE'RE HAVING A special treat: Gil and Camilla Holm are coming all the way from Idaho to put on a big Moose Stew Dinner! It will all take place on our regular meeting night, **Friday, March 7**, with refreshments starting at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30 at the low cost of \$5 for all the stew, salad, *limpa*, and dessert you can eat.

We will celebrate Easter, since it falls in March this year. Our cultural leaders have arranged for a special visit from a *påskkäring*. Bee Dillard will demonstrate how she makes her fantastic egg creations. We will also have initiation of new members plus a regular business meeting. It'll be a busy evening you don't want to miss.

At our February, we served the Swedish yellow pea soup and Swedish dessert pancakes to around 120 people, including District and Grand Lodge visitors and many Sierra Kronan members—and we didn't run out of food! Eivor Pfannkuch provided fantastic decorations in keeping with the Valentine Day theme. Our new cultural leaders put on a skit, we had a raffle and guessing contest, and we still had time for installation of the 1997 Monitor and Sierra Kronan officers. Our Deputy Joe Mingram and Grand Lodge Deputy Helen Mingram did the installing. Thanks to everyone!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I sat wondering what to write for this, my first-ever chairman's message, it dawned on me that I could write anything I pleased. No one can argue or talk back! A very powerful tool. I will try to use it wisely.

Let me start by saying you members are a great group of people and my family and I enjoy your company and the activities the lodge sponsors. We, like you, look to VASA to preserve and expand our link to our Swedish heritage. That is why I was slightly appalled when the District Chairman stated that only four percent of the District's budget is devoted to culture. I guess I shouldn't have been so surprised, because on reflection it seems obvious that the primary source of cultural material available to the Grand Lodge and the Districts is us, the general membership. We are the ones who have preserved the memories, stories, relics, and traditions of our immigrant ancestors. Our lodge is lucky because our current cultural leaders are experts on Sweden. So, if you have any material or information you think is of interest, pass it on to Birgitta Ostlund or Annika Andersson.

In closing, let me express our collective thanks to all who helped make the pea soup and pancake supper a great success

and ask you all to please join us at our March meeting to welcome our newest members and enjoy another delicious meal.

*- In Truth and Unity,
Art Niemoller*

Friendship Committee

Several of our members need our support. Jean Anderson is having a difficult time with her cancer treatments. Charles Badgley is very sick and has been in and out of the hospital. We're also thinking of Millie Johnson. Inez Norling is looking forward to her 100th birthday in April.

If you know of someone who is sick, not feeling too well, or is just lonesome and would like a visit, please contact one of the following persons: Carol Churkin, Marianne Ek, Don and Joyce Johnson, or Elizabeth Johnson.

For More Information about Monitor Lodge, Please Contact

■ Membership Committee members Eivor Pfannkuch, 673-5917, Astrid Broess, 791-4463, or Michelle Kaufman at 451-3075

■ Secretary Brian Stockham, 683-3078

■ Vice Chairman Marianne Ek, 372-1015

■ Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330



Odds and Ends

✓ Heads-up! Please move the sillfrukost on your calendar from May 17 to May 31.

✓ Chris Lund of Solvang, California, will give a concert of Danish music Sunday, March 16, 7 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 17th & L Streets, Sacramento. He was the organist and music director there before he retired.

✓ The 1997 program books have arrived. If your name, address, or telephone number needs to be corrected, please let Ingrid Kennedy know (638-3212) and she will publish the correction in the newsletter.

✓ HELP! HELP! Who took home the white table cloths (sheets) after the smörgåsbord in December?! PLEASE, PLEASE contact Margaret Carlson. We need them for our March dinner!

Also, some yellow table cloths are missing.

♥ CONGRATULATIONS to Arlie Veis on his engagement and upcoming marriage to Gwen Murrill!

Deadline

for the April newsletter is **Friday, March 14**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Or you can e-mail it to iken@gvn.net

Scandinavian Festival

Time flies! The annual Scandinavian Festival—this will be the 14th!—is coming up FAST. It will be held on **Saturday, April 12, 10 am-3 pm**, at the same location as last year: St. Ignatius Parish Center, 3235 Arden Way, Sacramento. The Swedish-Danish-Finnish-Norwegian planning committee has been meeting monthly since October and needs all the help it can get. The next meeting will be held on **Monday March 10, 7 pm**, at the Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. Please come!

Here are some of the things on the schedule:

- ◆ We need someone to bring Monitor's sound equipment to the festival.
- ◆ Each lodge will donate a \$15-\$20 door prize. (Vendors also donate door prizes.)
- ◆ We need to submit the name of a Swedish flag bearer for the Noon flag ceremony.
- ◆ Lots of people are needed to bring baked goods.
- ◆ Workers are needed at the various selling stations. (If you'd like the neat little job of pouring coffee for only about an hour, see Ingrid Kennedy.)
- ◆ The lodges will contact their respective consulates in the hope that representatives can attend.
- ◆ Each lodge has been asked to provide a list of workers and the approximate number of hours they can work by the March planning meeting.
- ◆ Does anyone know of teenagers willing to help out in the children's corner?

For more information about this festival or to sign up as helper, contact Monitor's representative, Ethel Johnson (457-0966), or the festival coordinator, Ellen Harrod (362-5273).

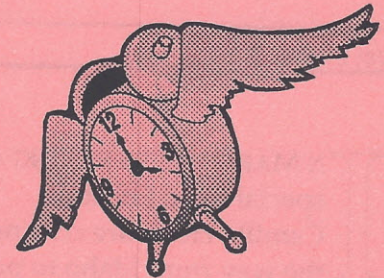
Nordic Fest

Representatives of the Nordic countries are meeting with CSUS's Multicultural Director, Leonard Valdez, to outline plans for the **Saturday, April 26**, Nordic Fest. It will be held outside, on the quad by the library from 10 am to 3 pm. This is a great opportunity for the Nordic countries to demonstrate their heritage and bring our traditions to the community.

There will be tables, chairs, electrical outlets, a stage for music and dancing, panels for putting up maps and pictures, and glasstop, locked display cases.

The university will handle all the publicity, sending out flyers and information to newspapers and TV stations. The individual countries will send out flyers to their members, both for their information and for posting around the community. The lodges will also contact musicians, dancers, children's groups, and story tellers and have videos for the program. They will be able to sell their national foods and crafts.

Myrtle Widmark is spearheading this project and will have more information at our March meeting.



Happy Birthday!

3/01 - Astrid Horyza
 3/02 - Dorothy Scherer
 3/04 - Karin Dorey
 3/04 - Laurine Coplen
 3/05 - Ellen Herting
 3/06 - Berthell Nelson
 3/08 - Jack Doscher
 3/13 - Henry Hjersman
 3/17 - Kenneth Carlson
 3/17 - Donn Stafford
 3/17 - Gertrude (Trudi) Kauffman
 3/18 - Edwin J. Cook
 3/20 - Helen Jenson
 3/26 - Robert Johnson
 3/24 - Gerda Anderson
 3/24 - Faye Powell
 3/26 - Lennart Thornros
 3/28 - Daniel Backman
 3/29 - Joyce Burns
 3/29 - Kjell Hakansson
 3/30 - Frank Lindahl
 3/30 - Arthur Niemoller



Telephone Callers

Our telephone callers have received updated lists and will be calling members to introduce themselves, to remind them of activities, and to sign members up to help at our various events, such as the Scandinavian Festival and the Nordic Fest, both coming up in April (see articles on page 2 of this newsletter). You can write your caller's name and phone number in the front of your program book for reference.

Sincere thanks to June Delle and Thelma Range for serving as co-chairmen and relaying information to the callers.

Sweden Expensive for Tourists

Sweden's days as a cheap tourist country are over. The travel and tourist boom that followed in the footsteps of the devaluation of the krona, which made Sweden a relatively cheap destination, is now over. Swedes are travelling abroad again as foreign currencies have become cheaper to purchase. There is once again a trade deficit in tourism.

— Swedish Press, Jan 97



Inlagda Rödbetor

4 quarts small beets
 2 cups water
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp whole cloves
 1 3-inch stick cinnamon
 3 cups vinegar
 2 ½ cups sugar
 2 tsp allspice

Cook the beets until tender. Slip off the skins and set the beets aside. Combine all the other ingredients to make a syrup. Bring this to a boil. Simmer 15 minutes. Add the beets to the syrup and simmer for 5 minutes longer. Strain and pack the beets into hot, sterilized jars. Bring the syrup to a boil again and pour it over the beets. Seal. If there is not enough syrup to cover the beets, add hot vinegar. Makes about 8 pint s.



March Dues Anniversaries

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

Helen and Gary Baker
 Annalena Bronson
 Lowell Carlson
 Brita and Sven-Erik Carlsson
 Louise and Thomas Center
 Carol and Michael Churkin
 Deidre Dahlberg
 Kay and John Ericson
 John Ericson
 Gibson and Dorothy Kingren
 Leo Krastins
 Carl A. Larson
 Wendy Strand
 Richard Westrup

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the March meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Karin Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way, Racho Cordova, CA 95670. If you would like a receipt and membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Please call Karin (858-8568) if you have questions or there are errors on this list.



Address Changes

Ellen Herting
 Walnut House
 3401 Walnut Avenue
 Carmichael, CA 95608
 486-2930

Viola Hallen
 Fair Oaks Retirement
 Residence
 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd, Apt 206
 Carmichael, CA 95608
 944-0503

Condensed Minutes from January 17, 1997, Business Meeting

1. Roll was called and previous minutes were approved.
2. Membership applications had been received from Angelique Willsey, Jeana Hultquist, and Rutanna Holm-Bittner.
3. District Scholarship is available for \$500. Applications must be submitted by April 1.
4. Kurt Pfannkuch is seeking input to update and rewrite the Vasa "rituals."
5. The Lodge has been asked to consider charity donations for 1997.
6. The district convention will be held in San Jose April 25-27. Art Niemoller, Betty Schoepf, Gail Nemy, and Ingrid Kennedy were named delegates with Liesma Krastins and Brian Stockham as alternates.
7. Letter received from the Grange asking us to be careful with the piano (one leg broken) and increasing Wisteria Hall rent by 10% to \$85 per month. The 1997 lease was signed.
8. Monitor's 85th anniversary will be celebrated in April—along with Inez Norling's 100th birthday.
9. Marianne Ek suggested a different pricing structure for our dinners. Further discussions will be held at a future meeting.
10. Betty Schoepf has notified our banks of the new names and signatures of those duly authorized to act on behalf of the lodge in bank matters.
11. Bills were approved and financial reports were read.

—Brian Stockham, Secretary

Condensed Minutes from February 12, 1997, Business Meeting

1. Membership applications were received from Kenneth Olson, Emily Carlson, and Kristi Threlkeld. Applicants were accepted for initiation.
2. Question arose regarding the "Member of the Month" articles we used to have in the newsletter. Sign-up sheets could be numbered and a number drawn for "winner" each month. Further discussions will be held at the next meeting.
3. New Chairman Art Niemoller will look into member interest surveys done some time ago and published by Terry Tillman.
4. New members have expressed interest in learning Swedish-style cooking.
5. Birgitta Ostlund reported a profit of \$32 from the pea soup dinner lottery. Disposition of such proceeds will be discussed at the November meeting.
6. Henry Hjersman sent an article, "The Vasa Order of America: Its Role in the Swedish-American Community," to the Vasa Star. The article was published in an historical quarterly by the Swedish-American Historical Society of Chicago.
7. Lodge financial officers will make a recommendation on keeping a budget.
8. Art Niemoller inquired about the status of shares sold for purchase of a piece of property for lodge functions.
9. The pea soup dinner brought in \$525.50 of which \$89 from bar sales. Expenses were \$166.00.
10. More advance information is needed about the program for each meeting so that it can be shared with prospective members.
11. A motion was approved to set \$5 for members as the standard amount for all lodge dinners.
12. Myrtle Widmark reported on preparations for the Nordic Fest at the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) on 26 April [see separate article on page 2 of this newsletter.] Lots of volunteers will be needed, especially since many otherwise active members will be attending the District Convention that weekend.
13. The 85th anniversary dinner, tentatively a Swedish-style potluck, was discussed. Margaret Carlson suggested having some kind of entertainment.
14. Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch asked that the sillfrukost, to be held at their home, be changed from 17 to 31 May. Notices will be sent out to have the change published in the district newsletter.
15. Art Niemoller is going to try to keep all meetings short. For instance, reports can be limited and details published in the newsletter.
16. The lodge will pay \$20 for Eivor Pfannkuch to attend the Western Region Membership Seminar.
17. Art Niemoller asked for suggestions for lodge bus trips, such as a trip to the Turlock Scandinavian Festival in September.
18. The new program books incorrectly shows Peggy Carlson and Camilla Caldwell as Children's Club Supervisors on page 7. Page 35 correctly lists Kristi Kagstrom as the 1997 Children's Club Supervisor.

—Brian Stockham, Secretary

Myths, Records, Facts, and Figures

Swedes excel in many things and many world records are broken by Swedes. There are also many myths about Sweden and its people when it comes to world statistics.

What statistics do Swedes really top? Not suicide, for example, which Swedes have never topped in the statistics but for which they have somehow become infamous. Sweden does not have the lowest child mortality in the world; it is second or third or at least competing with Iceland for top place. And in life expectancy it has been beaten by Japan. Swedes don't even drink most coffee; Finns drink half a kilo more per person every year. When it comes to newspapers per capita, the Norwegians, Japanese, Finns, and Icelanders are ahead of Swedes.

Many Swedes think that no country has more parking meters per car than. But France is the champion of parking meters followed by England. In books borrowed from libraries per capita, Sweden has been overtaken by Denmark and Finland.

There are a few things that Swedes are best at. Swedish women are considered the most equal to men in the world, according to various studies. The Swedish parliament has the highest proportion of women of all parliaments of the world—44 percent.

Another figure that is interesting is that 18 percent of the population in Sweden is over 65 which places Sweden at the top in this league. Sweden is best at preventing child accidents. And Sweden allows for the longest legislated paid maternity leave in the world. The right to take leave to take care of sick children is also the most thorough in the world.

As far as participation in political elections go, Sweden is usually at the top or close to the top. Swedes are also very well organized. Every Swede belongs on average to four different voluntary organizations. These could be housing, trade unions, cultural, or sports organizations. When it comes to trade unions, Sweden definitely comes out at the top with 83.5 percent of all Swedes belonging to one. Swedes in general also know their geography better than any other people according to recent studies. And Swedes top the league of cellular phones per capita.

Furthermore, Sweden has the world's largest private language school, Europeiska Ferieskolan, and the world's largest international ferry line, Stena Line. Sweden also has the world's largest private forest company, Assidomän, whose productive forest area is as large as Belgium. And the Swedish ulcer medicine Losec from Astra is expected to be the most sold medicine in the world this year. Swedish Electrolux is the world's largest manufacturer of vacuum cleaners and ASSA is the world's largest lock company. Sweden produces the largest variety of "hard" cheeses in the world. And no other country earns as much money per capita on music as Sweden. They have the largest number of leisure boats per capita in the world: there is one leisure boat per six Swedes.

Lastly, Swedes are the world's most sober—not most drunk—drivers. They can feel relatively safe on the roads as they have the lowest number of deaths in traffic per capita.

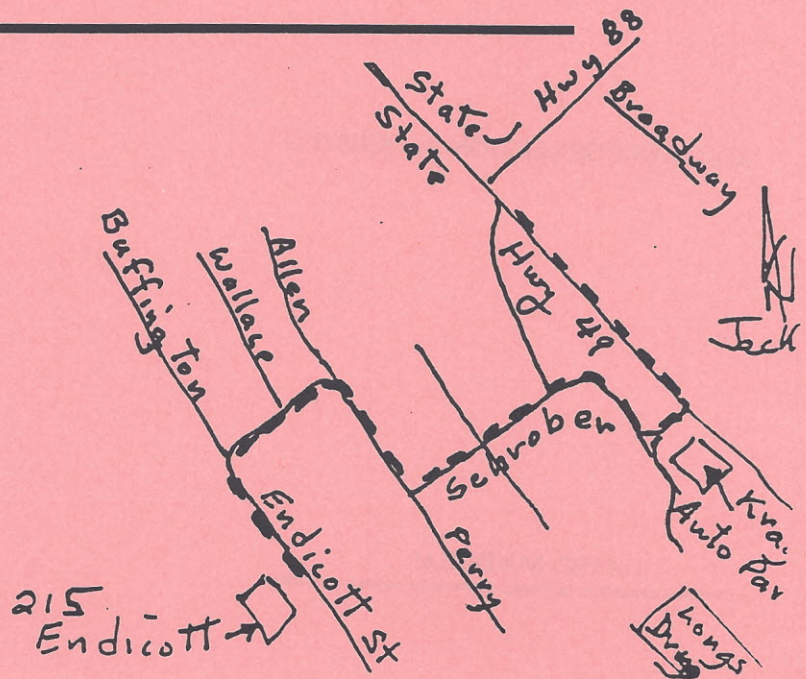
—Swedish Press, January 1996

Nål och Tråd

The group had a very nice day meeting at Dorothy Mogford's and the painters are coming along with their projects. Anyone can come to these meetings with their ideas of needlework, sewing, etc. There are patterns available. Here are the next dates:

Tuesday, March 11, 10 am, at Ruby and John Anderson's at 215 Endicott in Jackson (see map). Their phone number is 209/223-1049. Bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and dessert will be provided.

Tuesday, March 27, 7 pm, at Elizabeth Johnson's at 4332 T Street, Sacramento.



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

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