

The Monitor

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

Vol 21. No. 4

April 1997

Please come and help celebrate Monitor's 85th anniversary on **Friday, April 4**. This will be a Swedish potluck, so please put your best Swedish foot forward and bring portions large enough for several people. Refreshments will start at 6:00 PM and the potluck will be served at 6:30. The charge is \$3 to cover non-food expenses.

We will have a nice program. Among other things, we will celebrate Inez Norling's 100th birthday, honor past chairmen, and award ten 25-year pins.

There will be no business meeting—with one exception: We must vote on six resolutions for the District convention to be held 25-27 April. The resolutions are enclosed separately with this newsletter. **PLEASE TAKE THEM WITH YOU TO THE APRIL POTLUCK.**

April's Business Meeting

will be held on **Wednesday, April 9**, 7 PM, at the home of Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova.

Chairman's Message

Once more, heart-felt thanks to the Holms for providing a traditional Swedish meal at our March meeting. It was delicious. Oh, and Gil, good hunting next season!

Didn't I warn everyone to stay for the business meeting? Well, we talked about money. Specifi-

cally, last year's \$1900 deficit. We couldn't pinpoint a specific cause for such a large loss. Apparently everything is just getting more expensive while we have let our major fund raising activities lapse for want of workers. The bottom line is: No work and all play costs money! As an alternative to raising dues, which no one really wants to do, a motion was made to charge a \$1.00 fee for potluck dinners. In the prevailing discussion, this motion was unceremoniously brushed aside along with suggested exemptions for the servers and other workers and replaced by a similar motion charging \$3.00 with no exemptions. It was seconded and unanimously passed with very little discussion. I can't help but feel \$3.00 is a bit excessive, especially since we just raised the price of lodge prepared meals to a standard \$5. Well, let's try it for awhile and review our financial status next year. Maybe we can lower it a bit.

Please review the enclosed resolutions. We will have to discuss and vote on them at our April meeting, so our representatives will know how we want them to vote.

Make sure you join us at our April meeting. It's our anniversary and is shaping up to be a very entertaining evening.

*In Truth and Unity
Art Niemoller*

Scandinavian Festival

This big annual event will be held on **Saturday, April 12**. See attached flyer, and please spread the word. This is a good fundraiser and, as our chairman points out in his message above, we need to raise funds.

It all takes a lot of workers, however. Call Ethel Johnson at 457-0966 and sign up **IN ADVANCE**. We need to know in advance who is going to do what. Bluntly speaking, it is very little help if someone shows up on the day of the event saying, "I'm here now. What do you want me to do?" If you have any questions, you can also call Ellen Harrod at 362-5273. She is the festival's overall coordinator.

The next (last-minute) planning meeting will be held on **Monday, April 7**, at the Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. We need as many people there as possible!

For More Information about Monitor Lodge,

Please contact one of the following Monitor members:

- 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



❖ Condensed Minutes from March 7, 1997, Business Meeting ❖

1. Roll was called and previous minutes were approved.
2. The charter was draped in the memory of Viola Bodelson, Ruth Uffens, Martha Fredrickson, and Jeanne Hagstrom.
3. Initiation ceremonies were held for new members Jeana Hultquist, Emily Carlson, Sharon Anderson, and Ann Miller.
4. Eivor Pfannkuch will be attending the upcoming Membership Seminar to be held in Sacramento and extended an invitation to any other members who might wish to attend.
5. Scholarship applications must be submitted by April 1.
6. Ethel Johnson presented a check for \$700 to the Scholarship Fund from *Nål och Tråd*.
7. Ethel Johnson reported on preparations for the Scandinavian Festival. Volunteers and lots of baked goods are needed. The meeting voted to allot \$20 for one of the door prizes.
8. Correspondence included an invoice for the program books and a letter from Margaret Carlson, Sweden Day Food Coordinator, that Monitor will bring a three-bean salad for approximately 50 people.
9. The Secretary summarized the resolutions submitted for the April District Convention in San Jose. They will be discussed and voted on at Monitor's April meeting.
10. Myrtle Widmark reported on preparations for the Nordic Fest to be held on the CSUS campus on Saturday, April 26. Lots of people are needed to help. Please bring Swedish magazines, newspapers, and Vasa Stars to pass out.
11. Telephone callers are needed. Let Myrtle Widmark know if you can help.
12. Motion was made and passed to charge \$3 at potlucks.
13. Bills were approved and financial reports were read.

- Brian Stockham, Secretary

New Members

We're happy to welcome four new members:

Sharon L. Anderson
2601 Park Hills Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821
(no phone listed on app.)

Emily M. Carlson
4408 Kenneth Ave.,
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
967-9248

Jeana K. Hultquist
8836 Piedra Way
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
961-3517

Anne M. Miller
123 Rugosa Drive
Folsom, CA 95630
983-5530

In addition, please make the following address change to your program books:

Robert Johnson
3633 Grand Point Lane
Elk Grove, CA 95758



Deadline

for the May newsletter is **Friday, April 18, 1997**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317. Or you can send it to my e-mail address iken@gvn.net. I also have a new work phone: 643-3900.

Quiet Heroes

There are among us people who make valuable contributions in the background, almost unnoticed. **Russ Ellis** is such a modest person, who has not received by far enough attention or official recognition. Russ has provided us with the newsletter labels for years and years, quietly and without compensation or reimbursement. It's a monthly, very important task. Thank you, Russ, from all of us!



Friendship

Audrey Fales has several health problems, which must be difficult for her since she has always been such an unusually active person. We're thinking of you, Audrey, and really miss your lively participation! Jean Anderson stays cheerful but gave us quite a scare when she fell and had to be



taken to the hospital briefly. To play it safe, she'll be staying with one of her nieces for a while. In spite of everything, Jean is taking an active part in getting our newsletter in the mail. Charles Badgely is hospitalized and Thelma Badgely has a broken rib. George Uffens and Viola Hallen are both in rest homes, missing everybody. Eleanor Vine's arthritis has been bothering her and Ruth Wilcox also is not feeling well. All of these members would certainly appreciate your cards and calls.



Clinton to Sweden

President Bill Clinton will visit Sweden on July 10. He will be the first American president ever to visit Sweden during his tenure. The President will have talks on Baltic security with Prime Minister Göran Persson. He is also scheduled to give a lecture at the Institute for Foreign Policy (*Utrikespolitiska Institutet*).

From Swedish Press, Feb 97

Nål och Tråd

This group will meet on **Tuesday, April 8, 7 pm**, at the home of Myrtle Widmark, 3900 Silver Spur Way, Sacramento, 481-4056. We will be pricing items for sale at the Scandinavian Festival.

Happy Birthday!

The following Monitor members have birthdays during April:

- 4/01 - Robert Barrett
- 4/02 - Millie Johnson
- 4/03 - Harry Johnson
- 4/07 - Inez Norling
- 4/05 - Lennart Anderson
- 4/05 - Bertil Erickson
- 4/08 - Harold Mattson
- 4/11 - Sven-Erik Carlsson
- 4/15 - April Nelson
- 4/20 - Michelle Kauffman
- 4/21 - David Dorey
- 4/23 - Ronny Kagstrom
- 4/28 - Annika Anderson
- 4/29 - Sharon Anderson
- 4/30 - Annalena Bronson

April Dues Anniversaries

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

- Annabel Audet
- June Brown
- Ethel Hubbell
- Arthur & Donna Niemoller
- Marie & Terry Tillman
- Eleanor Vine
- Myrtle Widmark

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

Must Read

If you ever wondered why Swedes work so hard, love to carry their own weight, and have a penchant for punctuality, you will enjoy reading *Swedes: What we are like and why we are as we are*.

Written by anthropologist and ethnologist Gillis Herlitz for immigrants in Sweden, this book is interesting reading for both Swedes and others in frequent contact with this fascinating breed that believes that "one is strong on one's own."

Translated into English, Russian, Persian, and Japanese, the book can be ordered from Konsultförlaget AB, Box 2070, S-750 01 Uppsala, Sweden. The book has become a popular gift from companies to their foreign contacts as a way of explaining why Swedes love nature and solitude and always avoid conflict.



Swedish Press, Feb 97

Safe Roads

Sweden has the world's safest roads. Annual road deaths decreased from a peak of 1,300 in the 1960s to 550-590 in the past four years. This is despite a sharp increase in private car ownership. Sweden's 8.8 million inhabitants own 4 million cars. Experts point to fewer 18-year-olds passing their driving tests, better-designed cars and improved road quality as the main reasons for the low mortality in traffic accidents.

Swedish Press, Feb 97

Betty Jane Hopkirk Schoepf—Her Story

I was born in Chicago a very long time ago. My mother's parents had emigrated from Sweden and met and married in Chicago. My parents moved to Iowa when I was a few months old, where my father was needed to help run the family farm.

My father's Swedish mother had settled in New Sweden, Jefferson County, Iowa, one of the two Swedish "Mother Colonies" in the USA. When I joined Vasa, it was like going home to Iowa—different people, but the names and faces were familiar. I never knew my grandparents, so belonging to Vasa is a discovery trip. New Sweden now is just a crossroads out in the country but in the past, this small area had three Swedish churches: Baptist, Lutheran, and Methodist.

My father's father was of Scottish and English descent. My Scottish great-grandfather Hopkirk was one of the earliest settlers in Iowa, having homesteaded there in the 1830s. He and my English great-grandmother built the second house in Lockridge. I grew up in this house, still standing and in good repair (the house, not me!). The house design is similar to the one my great-grandmother was born in in England, according to photos my brother took last year when he and his wife were in Sweden, Scotland, and England looking into their "roots" cellars.

I was the oldest of three children, so I had to be the "boy" and do farm chores—even driving a team of tough-mouthed mules. I also did girl things. Life was pretty grim with the Great Depression and bank closings and the drought and dust storms of the 30s.

Music has always been important to me. I played the piano, violin, and tuba in high school and sang in the church choir. At 51, I began taking voice lessons and, besides doing a lot of fun things with various groups, I sang in the local opera chorus for several years. I also have done community theater.

After high school, I worked for two years during World War II as a machine operator at the Rock Island Illinois Arsenal, making parts for guns. I quit to go to California where my family had relocated, went to college for two years, worked for a trade association, got married, had one son, went to night school for years to study accounting, taxes, etc., went to work for a CPA, and became an Enrolled Agent. In looking back, however, life has been just a few days long, and I'm still only 13!

My son moved to northeastern Washington years ago and lives in an area that looks very much like

Sweden. My three granddaughters and two great-grandchildren all live in the area, so my dream is to live nearby on the Pend Oreille River and watch the river slowly flow to Canada.

A woman I know in Iowa, active in researching Iowa history, was quoted in the local paper as follows: "It is my opinion that America became great because the majority of the immigrants were strong in intellect, endurance, and physically strong. I believe they were willing to endure many kinds of hardship to live in a country that allowed them to vote, allowed them freedoms they didn't have in Europe, and they were possessed with determination and persistence. Thus we became great."

Sweden Online

If you're hooked up to the Internet, you can find just about any information about Sweden you can possibly want: government and politics, health, recipes, arts, business and economy, education and research, tourism, current events, etc., etc. You can also find addresses to organizations, businesses, newspapers, government agencies, museums, educational institutions, etc., etc.. Or lists of places in the United States where you can buy Swedish products. Or you can communicate with people both in the United States and in Sweden. Here are some sites:

www.swedentrade.com

<http://algonet.se/~nikos/wwwreg/media.html>

<http://www.sunet.se/sweden/>

<http://www.webcom.com/eha/kchock.html>

You can also get same-day news by accessing Swedish daily newspapers directly, such as Svenska Dagbladet:

<http://www.svd.se/svd/SvDhome.html>

Aftonbladet at <http://www.aftonbladet.se>

Östersundsposten at <http://www.op.se/>

Or contact Swedish TV News:

<http://www.svt/se/rapport/senaste/index.html>

I easily accessed all these sites—which in turn linked me to many more. The only problem was that I was overwhelmed by so much information that it will take quite some time to peruse it all.

— Ingegerd Kennedy

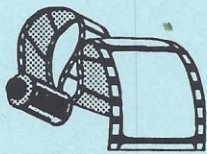


Must Research

Are you curious about your ancestors? In that case you should first of all send for Nils William Olsson's informative *Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry*, available at Swedish embassies, consulates, or directly from The Swedish Institute, Box 7434, S-10391 Stockholm.

And then you should include Ramsele in Norrland in your next visit to Sweden. The big tourist attraction here is the genealogical research center. With the center's microcard technique and a short introduction provided for all visitors, you can access church records from all over Sweden. The center has a special research room that can accommodate 45 people at a time.

Swedish Press, Dec 95



Must Film

Sweden and Norway have the world's highest prices for film.

Swedes who travel abroad could save 200 million SEK a year if they all made a stopover in Amsterdam and bought their film there instead of in Stockholm. And if they made a detour through Budapest, the saving would be almost SEK 280 million.

Scandinavian Press, Spring 1997

WE NEED LOTS OF SWEDISH PAPERS AND MAGAZINES AND PAST ISSUES OF THE VASA STAR FOR THE NORDIC FEST ON 26 APRIL. PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE APRIL 4 MEETING OR ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.

Kurbits

Almost two hundred years ago, a distinctive tradition of popular art arose in a poor and isolated province of Sweden. The painters and peasants of *Dalarna* decorated their churches, houses, carriages, and furniture with bright colors depicting scenes from the Bible. There was no attempt made to set the scenes in ancient times and places. The biblical figures were dressed in contemporary costumes and the buildings and trees were often depicted in the same size as the people.

The earliest traces of Dala paintings are purely decorative, mainly on cupboards and other furniture with stylized flowers as the only subject. The first paintings with representative subjects appeared in the 1780 and this tradition continued to flourish into the mid-nineteenth century. One of the charms of the Dala paintings is that the painter has filled the whole surface with ornaments. Most of them are exotic

trees, roses, and even "flaming" tulips so depicted because the artist had never seen them. Of special importance is the stylized flower vase with flowers and leaves that issue symmetrically from a central stem. The "kurbits" flower has almost become a signum of the genre, and the paintings are often called "kurbits paintings." Norwegians have similarly the "rosemaling."

The ornaments you find today on Dala horses and Mora clocks are very much kurbits paintings so the technique lives on among artisans and a few artists. One of them is Rita Sharpe Walker from the "Swedish" town of Lindsborg in Kansas. She has no Swedish background but was captivated by the style. Her American derivation of Dalecarlian painting has been shown at the *Kulturhuset* in Stockholm.

If you are interested in learning about kurbits art and Rita Sharpe Walker's interpretation of it, you can reach her through the Folklife Institute, 118 S Main St., Lindsborg, KS 67456

Swedish Press, Mar 94



**Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
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Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

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