

# The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896*

Vol 21. No. 7

Aug-Sep 1997

**W**E WILL HAVE OUR FIRST meeting for the fall season on **Friday, September 5**, at 7:30 pm. This will be primarily a business meeting with, among other things, a report from the Nominating Committee, discussing future activities, and taking in new members.

To meet the deadline for having our 1998 program printed in the District Program Book we will have to have a special planning meeting very soon. Chairman Niemoller will be announcing the date and place. As many members as possible are encouraged to attend.

After the meeting we'll have a cultural program and a scrumptious *kaffekalas*—so please bring a plate of open face sandwiches, cookies, or coffee bread.

## At our last meeting . . .

. . . we celebrated Father's Day with a potluck and initiation of 12 (!) new members. We were honored by the presence of District Master Bob Bergman, who presented 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary pins to Frank and Gladys Stangle and gave a short talk on district goals. He also installed our member Don Johnson as District Deputy to Gold Nugget Lodge. Scholarship Committee chairman Ronnie Kågström awarded Monitor scholarships to Jamie Canaday and Emily Carlson. Monitor received a \$600 check as our share of the 1997 Scandinavian Festival

proceeds.

In deep sorrow, we draped the charter in memory of Jean Anderson who had been such an active and well-liked, long-time member. For instance, she was assistant secretary for several years. Jean left us on May 18 but, as she had requested, no memorial service was held.

## Friendship Committee

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Audrey Fales on July 6. We have been told that Audrey died peacefully, ready to go "home." At her request, no services were held. Audrey, a past Monitor chairman, was very active not only in our lodge but also in an amazing number of other organizations and causes.

Violet Backman is very ill and we send her our very best wishes. Our best wishes also go to Charles Badgley who had to have a leg amputated up to the knee. We understand that Gerda Anderson now is home from the hospital and we hope she'll be OK soon.

## Tack, tack!

★ To Jill and Brian Stockham for hosting the huge potluck/ice cream social on July 19 that included a 26-person choir from Sweden.

★ To Peggy and Kenneth Carlson for hosting another successful crayfish party on August 23.

## Sillfrukost

The 1997 herring breakfast was held on May 31 at the home of Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch in Yuba City. It was attended by only 40 people, but the food was great, the weather beautiful, and everyone enjoy themselves.

The volunteer crews did a fantastic job. As usual, the Dahlbergs and Carlsons were the first to arrive and immediately started setting up the camp stove and cooking the onions. This year, they were joined by Lars Churkin and Don Stafford. Ken set up the grill and ran the cooking crew, while Margaret joined Eivor and Carol Churkin in the kitchen. David Dorey took over the bar duties, while Karin helped in the kitchen, both during set-up and clean-up. Dede Dahlberg filled in for Margaret on the entry duties and everything came together like clockwork. With workers like we have in Monitor, it makes putting on an event like this a great pleasure. A special thanks to Margaret Carlson for her baking and expert coordination efforts, to Russ Ellis for making the run to Oakland to get the herring, and to Ed and Lucy for soaking and preparing the fish. Thanks to all who came and to everyone who helped out to put it all together.

In summary, we had receipts of \$284.50 and expenses of \$259.02, so we showed a net profit of \$25.48.

— Kurt Pfannkuch



## Swedish Classes

The beginner class starts on Monday, September 15, at 6:30 pm. The low intermediate class also starts on September 15 but at 7:30 pm. Both classes will meet together between 7:30 and 8:00 and then the intermediate class will continue to 9:15. Please prepare a short story about your summer to tell in Swedish. The teacher will be Birgitta Ellis and you can reach her at 920-0696.

The high intermediate and advance Swedish class starts on Thursday, September 18, at 7:00-9:00 pm. For further information about this class, call LaVerne Gullans, 485-2609. For this class also, please prepare a story about your summer in Swedish.

The location for all classes is 1901 Royal Oaks Drive at the corner of Highway 160 and across from the Radisson Hotel.

*Ni är alla välkomna!*

## Swedish Sentence of the Month

Sommaren lider mot sitt slut. Fåglar och blommor har stått i sin skrud. Vi är tacksamma.

Phonetics: Sommaren leeder moot sitt slood. Foglar ock bloommoor har stott e sin skrood. Ve e tacksamma.

Translation: Birds and flowers have dressed themselves in beauty. We are grateful.

- Birgitta Ellis

## From our cultural leaders

This fall, we would like for you to bring any item you might have that belonged to your parents or other relative and that has a sentimental value to you. It doesn't have to be a Swedish item but if it is, so much the better.

Please call Birgitta Östlund at 682-2285 before the meeting if you have something you would like to share with the other members.

## Nål och Tråd

Monitor's "Needle and Thread" group includes all members, both men and women, who are interested in crafts and needlework. Things we're doing include weaving, embroidery, sewing, bobbin lace, floral head bands, *dalamålning*, and wood crafts. We make some items for ourselves, but most of them are sold at our meetings and at the annual Scandinavian Festival in April.

Our meetings are held at members' homes, and most of them are during the day since some people don't like to be out at night any more.

We need new members and it doesn't cost anything to belong. Won't you please come and join our group? For more information, contact Ethel Johnson, 457-0966, or Margaret Carlson, 742-9346.

## Monitor Member Honored

Elizabeth Bushnell is described as a "wonderful" and "admirable" woman and "an extraordinary teacher" by one of her students, Heather Cole. Heather was named national winner in a Pupil's Choice Essay Competition with an essay about her teacher at the Adelante High School in Roseville. Elizabeth Bushnell makes learning fun, and every day



in her class is a "new adventure" and a "magical world," writes Heather. "She makes it so we can relate to other places and people who live there." Learning about geography, history, and different cultures, the class has "visited" the new Russia, South America in the 1800s, Europe during World Wars I and II, turn-of-the-century China, and Great Britain in the middle ages, among other times and places. "She has encouraged a whole class who once hated geography to be open minded," writes Elizabeth's student.

- Condensed from a Press-Tribune article, 5/14/97, submitted by Don Carlson

## Deadline . . .

. . . for the October newsletter is **Thursday, September 18**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317. Or you can e-mail me at [iken@gvn.net](mailto:iken@gvn.net). My work phone is 643-3900. (It would be helpful to receive input even before the deadline!)

⇒ PLEASE NOTE ⇐

OUR BUS TRIP TO  
THE TURLOCK FESTIVAL  
PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 27  
HAS BEEN CANCELED  
DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST

## Children's Club

Members' children and grand children are welcome to the Children's Club. They meet two Mondays a month from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at Christi Kågström's house, 2218 Tallac Street, Sacramento. Her phone number is 641-8770.

The children have fun learning Swedish songs, doing Swedish crafts, and learning about Swedish culture. This fall they will be getting ready for the Lucia program.

The kick-off event will take place on Sunday, September 14, at the home of Mary and Lars-Erik Hammarin, 7491 Twig Court, Granite Bay. If you are interested in attending this event, call Mary at 791-8515 or Christi.



## From Jamie

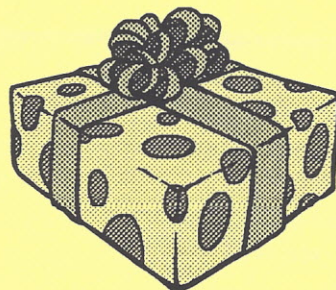
Monitor Lodge got a very nice thank-you card from Jamie Canaday, a winner of Monitor's scholarship award this year (and also a new member). She wrote:

"I would like to express my gratitude for the scholarship that I recently received. It was such a wonderful surprise. This coming fall, I will put it to use at Sacramento City College. I will be attending City for two years and then will transfer to a university. If all goes as planned, I will then attend medical school. It will be a long journey and very expensive, but your donation will help. I thank you once more for assisting me to reach my goals and dreams. It will not be forgotten. Thank you."

## Happy Birthday

Here are members who are celebrating birthdays around this time. *Gratulationer på födelsedagen!*

8/01 - Carl E. Larson  
 8/05 - Sigrid Thorsen  
 8/06 - David Benson  
 8/07 - Louise Center  
 8/08 - Jeanne Hanson  
 8/08 - Durl Van Alstyne  
 8/08 - Tom M. Anderson  
 8/09 - Paul Gullans  
 8/11 - Sue Bergman  
 8/15 - Lars Ostlund  
 8/15 - Larry M. Hultquist  
 8/17 - Elizabeth Bushnell  
 8/19 - Charles Badgley  
 8/20 - Helen Baker  
 8/26 - Birgitta Ostlund  
 8/28 - Jillian Stanley  
 8/29 - Dorothy Kingren  
 8/29 - Gail Nemy  
 9/02 - Anne Miller  
 9/04 - Erika Lewis  
 9/05 - Emily Carlson  
 9/06 - Carol Churkin  
 9/07 - Kenneth Olson  
 9/12 - Peggy Carlson  
 9/13 - Anne Fors  
 9/16 - Arlie Veis  
 9/19 - Carl A. Larson  
 9/20 - Joesie Henning  
 9/21 - Ethel Hubbell  
 9/21 - Eleanor Vine  
 9/23 - Britt Marie Anderson  
 9/23 - Gloria Braswell  
 9/29 - Estrid Doscher  
 9/30 - Barbara Anderson



## New Members

A great, big WELCOME all our new members!

Jamie Canaday  
 3250 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95818  
 446-5001

Christina and Naomi Fletcher  
 6234 Pinecreek Way  
 Citrus Heights, CA 95621  
 726-3971

Lars-Erik Hammarin  
 7491 Twig Court  
 Granite Bay, CA 95746  
 791-8518

Kent and Andrea Kjelstrom  
 8123 Caribbean Way  
 Sacramento, CA 95826  
 383-2708

Karl-Heintz Hennig  
 1786 Vista Creek  
 Roseville, CA 95661  
 773-1915

George Lively  
 5616 Layton Drive  
 North Highlands, CA 95660  
 332-0989

Kenneth Olson  
 6515 Clara Way  
 North Highlands, CA 95660  
 334-4330

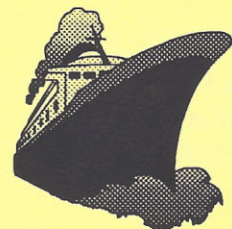
Jack Reynolds  
 3008 El Prado Way  
 Sacramento CA 95825  
 485-6845

James and Dorothy Woodstrom  
 1321 Meredith Way  
 Carmichael, CA 95608  
 487-3106

## One Immigrant's Story – One New Member

Monitor Lodge at times get new members in very round-about ways indeed. In the case of Jack Reynolds, who was initiated at our last meeting before the summer, we have Marie Carlsson to thank—a young high school student in Vänersborg, Sweden. Marie is a distant relative Jack didn't even know he had until he got a letter from her. Marie was doing genealogical research for a term paper she was writing on his mother (her namesake) and asked for any information he could provide about his mother's life after she arrived in this country.

Jack's mother, Marie Hedén emigrated alone from Uddevalla, Sweden, in July of 1906 when she was 21 years old to join her brother Gustav in San Francisco. She was one of 1,100,735 people to arrive in the United States that year. She traveled by steamship from Göteborg to Hull in England, by train to Liverpool and, after a couple of days' waiting in an emigrant shelter, started on the two-week voyage to New York and Ellis Island. Having had her



papers cleared and been examined by a doctor (only healthy people were admitted), the Travelers Aid Society helped her buy a train ticket to San Francisco—help that was greatly appreciated since Marie knew only a few words of English. The train trip took six days and she had to do all her sleeping sitting up. She could afford an occasional meal in the diner car but mostly bought food, fruit, and soda crackers at the stations along the way. She traveled via Washington, D.C., through the South, over Texas and Arizona, and finally arrived in San Francisco in August, only four months after the big earthquake.

Gustav was married and earned only a small salary as a carpenter. Marie got a job as a maid, setting out to learn English. Soon she got another job with a family in Los Angeles. It was far away from

her brother, but she liked her job, became active in Swedish organizations, and fell in love with and married a seaman named Karl Kjellberg. They moved back to San Francisco and Marie had two sons within two years. Her husband was mostly at sea, however, leaving Marie with all the work and problems. They were eventually divorced. By 1922 she met and married Russell Reynolds and finally had the life she always wanted. Three years later, Jack Reynolds was born—future member of Monitor Lodge No. 218.

Marie saw the opening of Golden Gate Bridge in 1937. Marie and her family celebrated most holidays with her brother Gustav's family. Marie and Russell acquired a car, but Marie's favorite past time was window shopping downtown on foot. On such occasions, she always wore hat and gloves, as was customary in those days. Marie was proud that by the time she was 50 years old, she had only a faint Swedish accent left. She was able to make a return visit to Sweden in 1949 when she was 64. Marie continued to enjoy her shopping trips to downtown San Francisco well into her 80s. However, she never really recovered from a broken hip in 1979 and died at the respectable age of 97. Marie Hedén-Kjellberg-Reynolds certainly lived a long and exiting life.

The unexpected letter from a distant relative made Jack Reynolds rediscover his Swedish heritage, he says. Wanting to help his young relative as much as possible, Jack searched his house for material, delved into the "far reaches" of his memory, and spent a lot of time at the public library. He and his young relative became pen pals: "Things like this make life real and vibrant," says Jack. He wanted to learn more about Swedish traditions and customs—and in the process he found the Vasa Order of America and Monitor Lodge.

—Ingegerd Kennedy

### Heads Up!

We will soon have to start working on the next Scandinavian Festival scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 1998. The first planning meeting will be held on **Monday, November 10, at 7 pm**. As usual, we will be at the Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue.

### HAPPY LABOR DAY!



## For More Information

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

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

❑ Secretary Brian Stockham, 683-3078

❑ Vice Chairman Marianne Ek, 372-1015

❑ Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330

## September

### Dues Anniversaries

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

Carl E. Larson

Milo Ahlstrand

Dee and David Benson

Laurine Coplen

Ingrid Gilchrist

Camilla Holm

Gilbert Holm

Larry Hultquist

Joyce and Don Johnson

Vicki Lydecker

Mindy Patterson

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the September 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.

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



## Just One Difference between Americans and Swedes

Here's some more interesting and useful (?) information from David Curle on the [www.swedishculture.miningco.com](http://www.swedishculture.miningco.com) Web site datelined July 6, 1997:

There's a saying that Sweden is the most Americanized country in the world, with the United States as a strong runner-up. Swedes listen to American music, watch American movies, and our fallen celebrities are all over the pages of their tabloids.

You have to look long and hard for any significant differences between the inhabitants of these two countries. Of course, there are generalizations you can make about crime, standards of living, the role of government and other such trivialities. But when you take a look at the important stuff, like attitudes towards hamburgers and fermented fish, there are really no *universal* differences between Swedes and Yanks. Plenty of the former eat hamburgers and plenty of the latter eat their share of *sill*.

However, the Mining Company's Swedish Culture Research Unit was deployed for some field work on this past American Independence Day and the unit reported a new breakthrough in the study of these two peoples.

After the burgers and the cheesecake were packed away and the third and fourth beers were opened, somebody passed around a small package of Swedish *salt lakrits*. To the uninitiated, *salt lakrits* is a confection that is unbelievably popular in Sweden. It is, as its name suggests, a salty version of licorice. It is, to be blunt, inedible to most healthy, normal people. It tastes like a cross between licorice and asphalt and is nearly as chewy.

A quick survey of the sizable gathering revealed that the Swedes present gladly took a piece of the *salt lakrits*, while the Americans present not only did not take any, but their repulsion manifested itself in such physical reactions as puckered lips, tongues sticking out, and feigned vomiting. This confirmed half of the thesis. There is not an American on earth who likes *salt lakrits*.



Having inquiring minds, the Research Unit then considered the opposite question: what American foods are universally rejected by Swedes?



Yet another quick survey of those present revealed the obvious answer: root beer. Again, the very thought of this apparently vile beverage elicited the Swedes' universal repulsion; they chose this nation's most sacred national holiday to turn up their noses at this most American of beverages.

Scientific research has proven that there is, in fact, a difference between Swedes and American.

**Monitor Lodge No. 218  
Vasa Order of America  
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