

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 22. No. 5

May 1998

THE MOTHER'S DAY DINNER on Friday, May 1, will be hosted by the Monitor Lodge men: they will cook the meal and wait on the ladies hand and foot. We start with refreshments at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30. Our cultural leaders are planning an entertaining program. The price will be \$5 for men and \$2.50 for women.

HELP WANTED: All available men will be needed to help. Ernie Skorheim, 482-7039, is the chairman, and you can call him to volunteer. Our Volunteer Coordinators Dorothy Scherer (967-6809) and Myrtle Widmark (481-4056) will also be lining up help. Please call them now so a schedule can be made up. Help will be needed for setup (tables, chairs, decorations), selling tickets, setting up the sound system, helping in the kitchen (preparing and serving), cleanup (kitchen and meeting rooms), and locking up. Contact Gail Nemy, 481-0373, if you would like to work in the bar.

TUSEN TACK to all who have helped with our recent activities. Our pancake breakfast, organized by Margaret Carlson, was a great success and many people turned out to help. Thanks also to those who helped with our anniversary dinner in April—with very special thanks to Margaret Carlson for carrying so much of the load all by herself!

Sillfrukost

Our *sillfrukost* will be held on Saturday, May 16, in Myrtle Widmark's back yard, 3900 Silver Spur Way (see attached map). We'll start at 10 am and the price is only \$5 for lots and lots of food.

For our new members: this annual brunch is very popular, consisting primarily of Swedish fried herring with lots of fried onions and new potatoes (although there are other dishes as well for the faint hearted). It's natural for Swedes to have become great fish eaters, considering Sweden's long coast line. Herring, prepared in numerous different ways, is without doubt the most often eaten food in Sweden for lunch or dinner. It is a prominent feature on the Swedish *smörgåsbord*, of course.

For planning purposes we need reservations, so please call Myrtle, 481-4056, or Dorothy, 967-6809. At the same time, let them know if you can help with cooking. It's a good opportunity for new members to learn from former cooks. Also let them know if you are able to bring some other foods.

Please note that we need as many people as possible to bring (card)tables and chairs!

Next business meeting

will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm, at the home of Betty Schoepf on 2529 Key West Way, Sacramento. Please come. We make important decisions at these meetings.

For More Information

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

☐ Membership Committee members Astrid Broess, 791-4463, Michelle Kaufman, 451-3075, or Dee Benson at 933-5502

☐ Secretary David Benson, 933-5502

☐ Vice Chairman Marianne Ek, 372-1015

☐ Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330

IN MEMORIAM

Our member Gibson Kingren passed away on February 14. Our condolences to Dorothy and the many Kingren family members. A California native, Gib was a Legislative Advocate for the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan for 41 years. He was a member of the San Francisco Bohemian Club and played in their band for 37 years.



Tack så mycket!

Our Volunteer Coordinators, Myrtle Widmark and Dorothy Scherer, thank everyone who has participated at our meetings and dinners. To be involved in these activities gives you a chance to meet other members and a time to socialize and learn more about Monitor Lodge and our activities.

Our dinners were very well attended. Those who could not attend the Swedish pancake breakfast missed a good meal and a good time. The signed-up volunteers did an excellent job and other members who came pitched in and helped also. It was a fun morning and we were asked by many guests for the date of our next pancake breakfast!

Margaret Carlson wants everyone to know how much she appreciated the last minute help from a lot of people to put on our anniversary dinner.

[Editor's note: I think we need to be a little more careful of Margaret. We're wearing her out, letting her do so much work by herself. Myrtle Widmark is also taking on more than her share. Let's all try to spread the load a little more evenly on the entire membership!]

Our sound system is very helpful at meeting and dinners, but the lodge needs a few more members to learn where the equipment is stored and how to set it up. If you're interested in helping out with this important function, please contact our chairman, Art Niemoller.



5/03 - Deidre Dahlberg
 5/04 - Debbie Nickless
 5/04 - Jeana Hultquist
 5/05 - Betty J. Schoepf
 5/05 - Louise Sims
 5/05 - Don Johnson
 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

May Dues Anniversaries

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

Christine Bodelson
 Kerstin Doze
 Marianne Ek
 Jeanne Hanson
 Mimi Hjersman
 Astrid Horyza
 Charles Johnson
 Ingegerd Kennedy
 Jeanine Lokey
 Gail Nemy

Eivor and 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, Karin Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way, Rancho Cordova, CA.

Sentences of the Month

... from our Swedish teacher Birgitta Ellis:

Förlåt, jag har glömt att skriva till er. (Forlaught, ja haar glomt att skreeva till ear). Sorry, I have forgotten to write to you.

Hoppas påsken var glad. Våren och dess blommor är här. (Hoppas posken vaar glad. Voren ock dess bloommor air hair.) Hope Easter was happy. Spring and its flowers are here.



Roster Changes

Here are some of our new members—whom we heartily welcome into the lodge. Please add them to your program book.

Lennart and Mildred Sernholt
 17017 Patricia Way
 Grass Valley, CA 95949

Wesley and Dorothy Bjur
 3121 Sierra Oaks Drive
 Sacramento, CA 95864

Aaron McLam
 2556 S. Whitney Blvd
 Rocklin, CA 95677

Judy Rae Beal
 100 Woodview Court
 Folsom, CA 95630

And Robert Anderson has a new phone number: 683-7030

Deadline

for the June-July newsletter (last one before summer break) is **Thursday, May 14**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Or e-mail it to iken@gvn.net

❁ Condensed Minutes from 7 April Business Meeting ❁

1. March minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.
2. One more application for membership had been received. Initiations will be held at the June meeting.
3. Condolences were expressed in a card sent to Dorothy Kingren and a plant had been brought to Gladys Stangl who is not feeling well.
4. The Scholarship Committee has closed out further applications and is now considering those received.
5. Dorothy Scherer and Myrtle Widmark would now like other members to take over as Volunteer Coordinators. A long discussion followed on how to encourage members to actively support lodge activities or it will be difficult to continue them. Volunteer work cannot continue to fall entirely on the same few members.
6. Correspondence included a check for \$329 for the District membership drive; thanks from the Grange for our installation of a new fan over the Wisteria Hall stove; and approved and signed 1998 rental agreement from the Grange. Sweden Day raffle tickets were received and will be sold at the Mother's Day function.
7. The pancake breakfast brought in \$928.75.
8. We have no location yet for the ice cream social. The *kräftskiva* will be held at the home of Lars and Birgitta Ostlund.
9. The meeting voted, with some no-votes and some abstentions, for the lodge to give each of the Valley Viking Singers \$5 worth of food tickets at the Scandinavian Festival.
10. Karin Dorey displayed pieces of Swedish merchandise for a Scandinavian Festival drawing. A table top Maypole was selected. (All participating Scandinavian lodges donate items for drawings.)
11. Brian Stockham suggested we buy a pair of speakers for mounting on the walls at Wisteria Hall to expedite setup of the sound system. Also, a replacement VCR will be purchased as previously voted. Brian will price both items and report back at the next meeting.
12. Myrtle Widmark showed items donated by Gladys Stangl which might be used as raffle prizes.
13. Art Niemoller suggested sending out a questionnaire with the newsletter. Ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

Happy
Mother's
Day



Note to Nonmembers

Monitor Lodge has found it necessary to limit the number of free issues of our newsletter to six per nonmember. We hope that in the meantime, you have decided to join the lodge and, thereby, will continue to receive our newsletter.

Or, you can stay on the mailing list for \$10 a year. Please send your subscription check to:

Karin Dorey,
Monitor Financial Secretary
2434 Stokewood Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

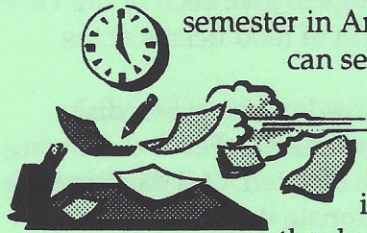
Memorial
Day
May
25



* Swedish Summer (and a Swedish lesson) *

All manners and etiquette have their origin in practicalities, including the customs surrounding the Swedish summer. It's so brief and sweet, you need to know how to get the most out of it. The Swedish summer lasts, on average and depending on where in Sweden you are, anywhere from about a day and a half to as long as three weeks. By following the correct Swedish approach to summertime manners, however, the well-behaved Swede can make it seem much longer.

The key to the whole set of rituals, of course, is the legendarily long Swedish vacation. The Swedish word for vacation is in fact *semester*—quite an appropriate term for Americans, since the word *semester* in American English means the length of a school term. Indeed, the Swedish *semester* can seem to last as long as the dulllest of school semesters. Everyone in Sweden, of course, is entitled by law to a minimum of five weeks of vacation. Many lucky souls enjoy even more, particularly those who happen to work for the state. (American friends have reported a most rude Swedish habit: that of gloatingly informing American guests of just how much vacation time they have, down to the day.)



Most of this time off is taken during what passes for summer, which generally falls in June or July. Industrial workers often have prescribed vacation times, when the whole factory closes so that the workers can fly down to the Spanish island of Mallorca to get some sun. Others tend to spend the weeks after the *Midsommar* holiday at their *stuga* out in the forest, cutting wood and drinking their coffee outdoors for a change.

The rules for politely stretching the Swedish summer can be briefly summarized as follows:

- * **Approximately one month before somebody's vacation**, ask them what they will be doing this summer and whether they are looking forward to it.
- * **During somebody's vacation**, ask if their vacation is wonderful.
- * **For several weeks after somebody's vacation**, ask what they did on their vacation and if they are now rested up for the long stretch between now and Christmas, when they'll take a couple of more weeks off.

More specifically, here are some of the key phrases that will help you converse like a native Swede:

Before the vacation:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Man behöver verklingen att avbrott. | I really need a break. |
| Oj, vad jag längtar till (where your <i>stuga</i> is) | I can't wait to get out to (followed by a detailed description of where said cottage is). |
| Tänk på stackarna i Amerika, som inte får någon semester. | Think of those poor devils in America, where they hardly get any vacation at all.. |

During the vacation:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Det är nästan <u>för</u> varmt. | It's almost <u>too</u> warm (use only if the temperature goes above 68F). |
| Den svenska sommaren slår allt! | The Swedish summer tops everything! (Only spoken when the rain lets up.) |
| Ja, dagarna blir bara kortare nu! | The days are getting shorter now! (Invariably spoken by a true pessimist at <i>Midsommar</i> , the longest day of the year.) |

After the vacation:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tillbaka till den grå vardagen . . . | Back to the old grind! |
| Man behövde verkligen ett avbrott! | I really needed a break! |
| Hur ska du fira julen? | What are you doing for Christmas? |

The key to all this is to remember that virtually everyone's vacation follows this same before-during-after routine. Don't do as an American acquaintance once did: work through an entire summer without a vacation. You will be chastised, teased, and in some circumstances run out of town as some sort of freak.

(The above instructions were taken from the www.miningco.com web site, published in May 1997.

Unfortunately, the entertaining Swedish Culture link on this site, written by David Curle, now seems to be defunct.)

**Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
10582 Apple Grove Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

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