

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 23. No. 6

June-July 1999

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE held on **Friday, June 4**, to celebrate *Fars Dag*.

We'll have refreshments at 6:00 pm and a Swedish potluck supper at 6:30.

This time it's the ladies' turn to pamper and entertain the men. So please, all women, bring your favorite Swedish dish big enough to serve 12 people. You know how we all love to eat and there will be no charge for this feast.

We'll have a short business meeting to initiate 12 new members. Our innovative cultural leader will have a most interesting program again. Hope to see you all there to enjoy good food and fellowship with your Vasa Order friends.

- Margaret Carlson

Thank you

The Monitor women send a big THANK YOU to the men for a great *Mors Dag* dinner and to the Children's Club for a very nice program.

The children were wonderful and they and their leaders put in a lot of time and effort. We really appreciate it! And we are fortunate to have really great cooks in our lodge, such as Kent Kjelstrom, Ernie Skorheim, Donn Stafford, Larry Hultquist, Ed Dahlberg and all the others who helped in so many ways. What a great evening! Thank you all!

Thank you also

to Ken and Peggy Carlson for hosting our *sillfrukost* on May 15. They not only opened up their new home for us, but they and Margaret Carlson did most of the cooking and other preparations.

The food was plentiful and scrumptious, the turnout good, and the weather beautiful. No wonder we do this every year! Our thanks to all who came and all who helped!

Congratulations

to the following Monitor members who have achieved preeminent positions with our Golden Gate District 12:

- **Margaret Carlson** was reelected District Historian.
- **Carol Churkin** is the new District Cultural Leader.
- **Myrtle Widmark** is now on the district executive board and also District Deputy for Gold Nugget Lodge in Paradise.
- **Kurt Pfannkuch** is District Deputy for the Sierra Kronan Lodge in Roseville.

Prospective Members

Please note that we will have member initiation ceremonies at the June 4 meeting. If you have submitted your application and paid the necessary fees, do make sure to come to this meeting. We will not have initiations again until the fall.

Annual Kräftkalas

Our crayfish party this year will be held on **Saturday, August 21**, at the home of Kenneth and Peggy Carlson at 6042 Lincoln Avenue, Carmichael, 944-4990 (see map in the May newsletter.) Swedish tradition demands that all crayfish parties be held only in the month of August.

We must start with a short business meeting at 6 pm but the party will blast off at 7 pm.

The price will be only \$5 to cover the very expensive crayfish which is purchased by the lodge. Everything else is pot luck. Please bring a dish large enough to serve at least 12 people. It would help if you could also bring chairs and maybe a folding table.

Come and enjoy a real Swedish *kräftkalas* with lanterns, music, aquavit, etc. It'll be an evening you won't soon forget.

AND NOTE that this is the last newsletter for the summer, so there will not be another reminder!

Lots of Swedes

There are over 4.7 million Americans who claim Swedish ancestry. California boasts the largest Swedish-American population with 587,772 while Minnesota is second with 536,203.

- Swedish Press, Apr 99

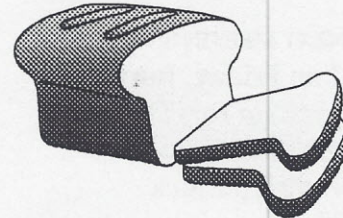
❑ Birgitta's Swedish Sentences ❑

Swedish: Vad tycker du?
 Sounds like: Vaa(d) ticker dew?
 English: What do you think?

Swedish: Han tycker om henne.
 Sounds like: Hun ticker om henne (hen as in a hen and ne as in net)
 English: He likes her.

Swedish: Hur mycket kostar den/det?
 Sounds like: Huur micket costar den/det?
 English: How much does it cost?

Swedish: Var snäll skicka brödet.
 Sound like: Var snell (as in pell) shicka brudet (as un uncle)
 English: Please pass the bread.

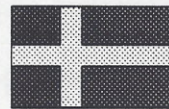


Condensed Minutes from Business Meeting April 14, 1999

1. Easter flowers and cards were distributed to members unable to come to meetings. Art Niemoller suggested expanding the holiday plant distribution to more holidays and special occasions.
2. Some items were left at St. Ignatius after the festival. The need for an inventory of lodge property was mentioned.
3. The Children's Club will be reimbursed for a microphone (approximately \$65).
4. The cultural leader discussed having Swedish songs duplicated and translated for community singing at meetings.
5. The possibility of hosting the district convention in 2002 was discussed.
6. The need for raising dues or charging more for dinners was discussed.
7. No decision has been made on the use of a \$1300 donation. Suggestions include a new altar with storage space and a new altar cloth.
8. Each cookbook cost \$5.20 to print. Margaret Carlson had paid \$814.75 with another payment of \$404.52 due on May 5. In all, 38 books were sold at the Scandinavian Festival.
9. The pancake breakfast took in \$774.75 with expenses of \$262.05 and a profit of \$512.70. Last year's receipts were \$928.75.
9. Delegates to the district convention will receive \$50 each toward expenses.
10. A rummage sale at Wisteria Hall was suggested as a fund-raising event.

Flag Day Celebrations

Sweden Day will be celebrated at Camp Norge in Alta the weekend of June 6-7 with camping facilities and lodging available Friday and Saturday nights. [See also May newsletter, page 2.]



This year, you'll have to bring lunch for Saturday and meat for the barbecue Saturday night. For more information, contact Margaret Carlson, 530/742-9346, or David Benson at 933-5502.

Sweden is Best

According to the Germans, Sweden is the best tourist country in Europe. What they like most about Sweden is the peace and quiet and the wonderful countryside. Last year, Germans spent 1.8 million guest nights in Swedish hotels, hostels, resorts and camping grounds.

- Swedish Press, May 1999

The Swedish Exception

In his newly published "Business @ the speed of thought" Bill Gates boasts that the USA leads the Internet revolution on all fronts. The head of Microsoft notes only one exception and that is the governmental use of the Internet where Sweden is the leader.



- Swedish Press, May 1999



6/01 - June Brown
 6/01 - Jack Reynolds
 6/01 - Elsa Cisar
 6/02 - Audrey Olson-Smith
 6/02 - Inger Thornros
 6/02 - Kerstin Herrmann
 6/04 - Michael Karelius
 6/07 - Karna Boyer
 6/08 - Gilbert Holm
 6/09 - Beatrix Clark
 6/10 - Beatrice Mattson
 6/15 - Elizabeth Johnson
 6/28 - George Lively
 6/20 - Barbara Ericson
 6/20 - Tiffany Niemoller
 6/23 - Melissa Karelius
 6/20 - Frank Stangl
 6/30 - Monica Eriksson
 7/07 - Herb Johnson
 7/10 - Eivor Pfannkuch
 7/11 - Ernest Skorheim
 7/15 - Roy Sjogren
 7/16 - Camilla Holm
 7/16 - Patricia T. Page
 7/18 - John Ericson
 7/18 - Madeleine Hallstrom
 7/24 - Ingegerd Kennedy
 7/24 - Joyce Johnson
 7/28 - Lars-Erik Hammarin
 7/29 - James Woodstrom
 7/31 - Leo Krastins

Roster Changes

In your program books, please change the house number for Elizabeth Bushnell. She lives at 8415 Monterey Pines.

And Ingrid Gilchrist's new address is:

601 Feature Drive
 Sacramento, CA 95825
 927-7775

Personal

★ **Ken Andersson**, son of Lennart and Britt-Marie Andersson and former Children's Club member, got married on Valentine's Day to Karin Johansson, whom he met while he was working in Sweden. They now reside in Hawaii.

★ **Ingrid Gilchrist** sends thanks for remembrances during her illness and regrets that she was not able to attend the *Mors Dag* event.

★ Congratulations to **Astrid Horyza** who recently turned 90 years old! On this occasion, she received a citation from Supervisor Don Nottoli, thanking her for long-time community commitment in the American Legion Auxiliary, our Swedish organization, and as a teacher.

Next Year's Officers

The Nominating Committee is working on a slate of officers for next year. They will be contacting you to serve as an officer or appointee. **Please don't say no! Be brave, dive in!**



If you would like to run for an office or nominate someone, please contact David Benson at 933-5502 or Margaret Carlson at 530/742-9346 before June 16 or after August 17.

Deadline

Newsletters will not be published the next two months. Deadline for the September newsletter, is **Friday, August 13**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317, or to iken@gvn.net.

April Dues Anniversaries

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

Greg and Lin Anderson
 Daniel Backman
 Linda Becker
 Jamie Canaday
 Don Carlson
 Beatrix Clark
 Diane Curtis
 Christina Fletcher
 Naomi Fletcher
 Lars-Erik Hammarin
 Ellen Harrod
 Karl-Heinz Henning
 Randy and Pamela Johnson
 Andrea and Kent Kjelstrom
 Liesma Krastins
 Frank Lindahl
 George Lively
 Nancy Maddox
 Beatrice and Harold Mattson
 Francies Misenti
 Nancy Misenti
 Dorothy Mogford
 Billye Nelson
 Kenneth Olson
 Jack Reynolds
 Ernest and Juanita Skorheim
 Dorothy and Jim Woodstrom

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the June meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Karin Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way, Rancho 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.



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

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DATED MATERIAL

📌 Significant Events in Swedish History 📌

- Ca 1280 - King Magnus Birgersson exempted from taxes those who served the King with a fully armored horse and rider. This was the foundation of the Swedish nobility.
- Ca 1350 - King Magnus Eriksson proclaimed the first general law that was common for the whole country except the cities.
- 1350 - The Black Plague devastated Sweden. According to some accounts, about half of the population died.
- 1381 - The oldest still preserved book of city council minutes was started in Kalmar.
- 1471 - In the Battle of Brunkeberg (outside Stockholm) the Danes were defeated by the governor Sten Sture and Swedish independence was saved.
- 1474 - The continuous series of Stockholm city council minutes starts.
- **1523 - Gustav Eriksson Vasa was elected King of Sweden.**
- 1527 - The Riksdag in Västerås decided that Sweden should adopt the Lutheran doctrine.
- 1530s - The continuous tax records start for most of Sweden.
- 1561 - Estonia is incorporated in the Swedish realm.
- 1592 - King Johan III died and was succeeded by his son Sigismund, who also was King of Poland and a Catholic. Sigismund tried to change Sweden back to Catholicism, which caused bitter feuds and finally civil war. In the end, Sweden stayed Lutheran.
- 1614 - The first court of appeal was instituted.
- 1620 - Taxation on cattle started, and rolls were created on how many cows a farmer owned.
- 1620s - For the first time, coins of copper and silver were circulated.
- 1625 - A tax was imposed on all grain milled in public mills, the Mill Tax.
- 1628 - The state Survey Office started to draw maps of parishes, villages, cities and mines.
- 1630 - The Swedish army went to Germany to take part in the 30-Year War on the Evangelical side.
- 1634 - The old administrative division of provinces was changed into a division of counties, which still is in use, more or less unchanged.
- 1635 - The Mill Tax was changed into a personal tax .A sum of money was to be paid for every person in the country above a certain age, except that only half the amount was paid for women. This started the Personal Tax Rolls, which continued until 1967.
- 1638 - Sweden started a colony in the New World, New Sweden in Delaware.
- 1645 - The newspaper *Post- och Inrikes Tidningar* started publication and is still published.
- 1645 - The wars during this period ended in the Peace Treaty of Brömsebro, in which Sweden gained the province of Halland for 30 years as well as Jämtland, Härjedalen, Gotland and the island of Ösel.
- 1648 - Another result of these wars was the Peace Treaty of Westphalia, where Sweden gained parts of Pomerania, the islands of Usedom, Rügen and Wollin, and the cities of Wismar and Bremen.
- 1655 - New Sweden in Delaware was conquered by the Dutch.
- 1658 - After more wars with Denmark, Sweden gained several southern provinces.
- 1668 - An epidemic of witch-hunting broke out, especially in some of the northern provinces.
- 1676 - War with Denmark again, in which the Danes tried, but failed, to recapture Skåne and the other southern provinces.
- 1682 - The armed forces were reorganized, whereby soldiers now were paid by a number of local farmers in a neighborhood.
- 1686 - The new Church Law proclaimed that church records should be kept in every parish. [Later gold mines in genealogy searches.]
- 1700-1718 - Sweden was attacked by Denmark, Poland and Russia and at first managed well. As the years went by, however, the wars continued and the country was brought to the edge of ruin.
- 1721 - In the Peace Treaty of Nystad, Sweden had to give up the Baltic provinces and most of the German conquests.
- 1726 - A church edict prohibited people from congregating in the homes to hold religious meetings.
- 1734 - A totally new version of the Swedish Common Law was instituted. Among other things, it proclaimed that estate inventories should be taken after deceased persons, children born out of wedlock had no right to inherit, and a woman had legal rights of her own only as a widow.

- 1749 - The Table Office started to assemble statistics about the population of Sweden. The name of this authority was later changed to The Central Bureau of Statistics.
- 1753 - The calendar was changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.
- 1757-62 - War in Pomerania ended without great losses. The soldiers are said to have learned to eat and cultivate potatoes during this war.
- 1766 - The Edict of the Freedom of the Press was proclaimed.
- 1772 - The royal power had been very limited since 1719, but King Gustaf III declared himself an advocate of the doctrine of equal division of power between the Riksdag and the Monarch.
- 1778 - The King decreed that women were allowed to give birth without revealing their names. This was meant to bring down the number of children murdered by their mothers who were trying to avoid the shame of having an illegitimate child. Most women convicted of murdering a child were sentenced to death, and the number of death sentences worried the King who had to sign for them.
- 1788-90 - War against Russia, which mostly took place in Finland.
- 1804 - An Edict of Inoculation was proclaimed, which soon brought down the feared smallpox epidemics.
- 1805-07 - War against Napoleon in Pomerania. Many Swedish soldiers were taken prisoners of war by the French.
- 1808 - War with Russia, which mostly took place in Finland.
- 1809 - A new constitution was adopted.
- 1809 - In the Peace Treaty of Fredrikshamn, Sweden had to give up Finland to Russia.
- 1810 - The French field marshal Jean Baptiste Bernadotte was elected Crown Prince.
- 1812 - The army was reinforced by compulsory militia units.
- 1812-13 - War against Napoleon and Denmark, which mostly took place in Germany.
- 1814 - In the Peace Treaty of Kiel, Denmark gave up Norway to Sweden. The Norwegians resisted but the following year had to accept a union with Sweden as a double monarchy. The two countries had separate laws, constitutions, and governments but the same head of state.
- 1818 - Karl XIII died and was succeeded by Jean Baptiste Bernadotte who took the name Karl XIV Johan. The present king is a descendent from this French field marshal.
- 1834 - An epidemic of cholera troubled the country.
- 1842 - The Law of Public Schools was passed. Every parish now had to have a school for its children.
- 1845 - The law of inheritance was changed so that sons and daughters inherited equally. Previously, sons inherited twice as much as daughters.
- 1845 - Swedish mass emigration to the United States began.
- 1846 - The very old guild system of masters and journeymen was abolished and freedom of enterprise was declared.
- 1853 - The first telegraph line is built between Stockholm and Uppsala.
- 1854 - The Riksdag decided to start building the first railroads.
- 1858 - The edict against private religious gatherings was revoked and more religious freedom allowed.
- 1860 - It was no longer an offense to renounce the Lutheran faith.
- 1861 - Unmarried women now had full legal rights at age 25.
- 1865 - The old four estate Riksdag is abandoned and a new two chamber constitution is passed. Only men of property had the right to vote.
- 1866-68 - Famine years increased emigration.
- 1878 - The metric system is introduced.
- 1880 - The first telephone net is built in Stockholm.
- 1901 - The army is reorganized and now based on conscription.
- 1905 - The union with Norway is dissolved.
- 1909 - All men were given the right to vote.
- 1920 - Married women were given full legal standing.
- 1921 - Women were given the right to vote.
- 1973 - King Gustaf VI Adolf died and was succeeded by his grandson, the current king Carl XVI Gustaf.
- 1991 - The keeping of vital records was transferred from the church to the local tax offices.