

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 24. No. 1

January 2000

WE WILL BE GOING TO Sierra Kronan Lodge on **Friday, January 14**, for dinner and installation of officers (see map on page 2). We want as many of our members as possible to come. It's always fun to visit other lodges and see how they do things.

There will be a small charge for the dinner. I am sure they need reservations, however, so please phone Margaret Linn, 483-0261 or Donna Huttner 332-5526. Hope we have a good turn-out.

This means that we will not be having a regular meeting at Wisteria Hall in January. Our next **business meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 4, 7 pm**, at Ellen Harrod's house.

- Margaret Carlson

Chairman's Message

GOTT NYTT ÅR! Our Christmas Party was a wonderful way to end our Monitor Lodge year in the company of friends, enjoying gourmet food, music resounding from Dale Ingvarsen's accordion, a sing-a-long led by the spirited and merry-making Swedish Bunch at the front table, a ladies' quartet from the Valley Viking singers accompanied by Gail Nemy, and a beautifully presented monologue of "Christmas in Sweden" by Carol Churkin with a background of violin melodies by Dan Backman.

Kudos to Margaret Carlson for her leadership and organi-

zation of the feast and the many who brought delicious foods, decorated tables, assisted in the kitchen, and helped in the cleanup. Special recognition to: Larry Hultquist who arrived at noon, set up the tables, and cooked until eating time; Ruby Hendricks and Eivor Pfannkuch who prepared all the hors d'oeuvres; Kurt Pfannkuch for the aquavit ; the Ostroms for the delicious *glögg*; Karin Dorey for the Swedish meatballs; Tom and Annika Anderson for the potato sausage; Richard Westrup and Deidre Dahlberg for the arrangement and presentation of the *smörgåsbord*; the Woodstroms for the beautiful decorations, and Ellen Harrod for the arduous task of reservations. We all say a special thanks for the absence of numbered tables and long lines - it was a smooth operation!!

We look forward to a year of fellowship, good food, cultural programs, and enjoying the universal language of music. In our first lodge meeting, we will duly recognize those leaders who are ending their offices and welcome those who will be serving in 2000.

Best wishes in the first year of the new millennium to all our members, especially those who are unable to attend our lodge functions and those to whom we had the pleasure of bringing greetings and a poinsettia plant.

- In Truth and Unity,
David Benson, Chairman-Elect

IN MEMORIAM

We are chocked by the tragic vehicle accident that killed our beloved **Sophie Swanson** on December 8. Sophie, age 91, was a long time, admired, and very generous member. In accordance with her wishes, there will be no service or memorial. However, all the people living and working in her neighborhood held a beautiful candle vigil for her.

Our condolences to Margaret Carlson whose brother-in-law **Lowell Carlson**, age 67, passed away November 22 in his sleep. Lowell was a Monitor member since 1980 and very active in our lodge when he lived in this area. Living in Copperopolis in recent years, he was a dual member of Nord Lodge in Stockton and was going to take over the chairmanship there this year. He will certainly be missed in both the Monitor and Nord lodges.

Very Special Thoughts

go to **Helen Jenson** and **Ingrid Gilchrist**. Both suffered falls and had to go through many long and terrible hours before they were finally found and helped. We hope they are able to recover from these very sad experiences and join in our activities again soon.

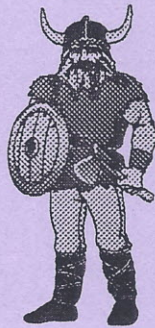


Scandinavian Festival

Here's another plea for as many Monitor members as possible (especially our new members) to help plan our next annual Scandinavian Festival. It's a major event, which requires lots of helping hands. Our planning meetings will be held on the following Mondays: **February 14, March 13, and April 3.** We always meet at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue, at 7 pm. Please come!

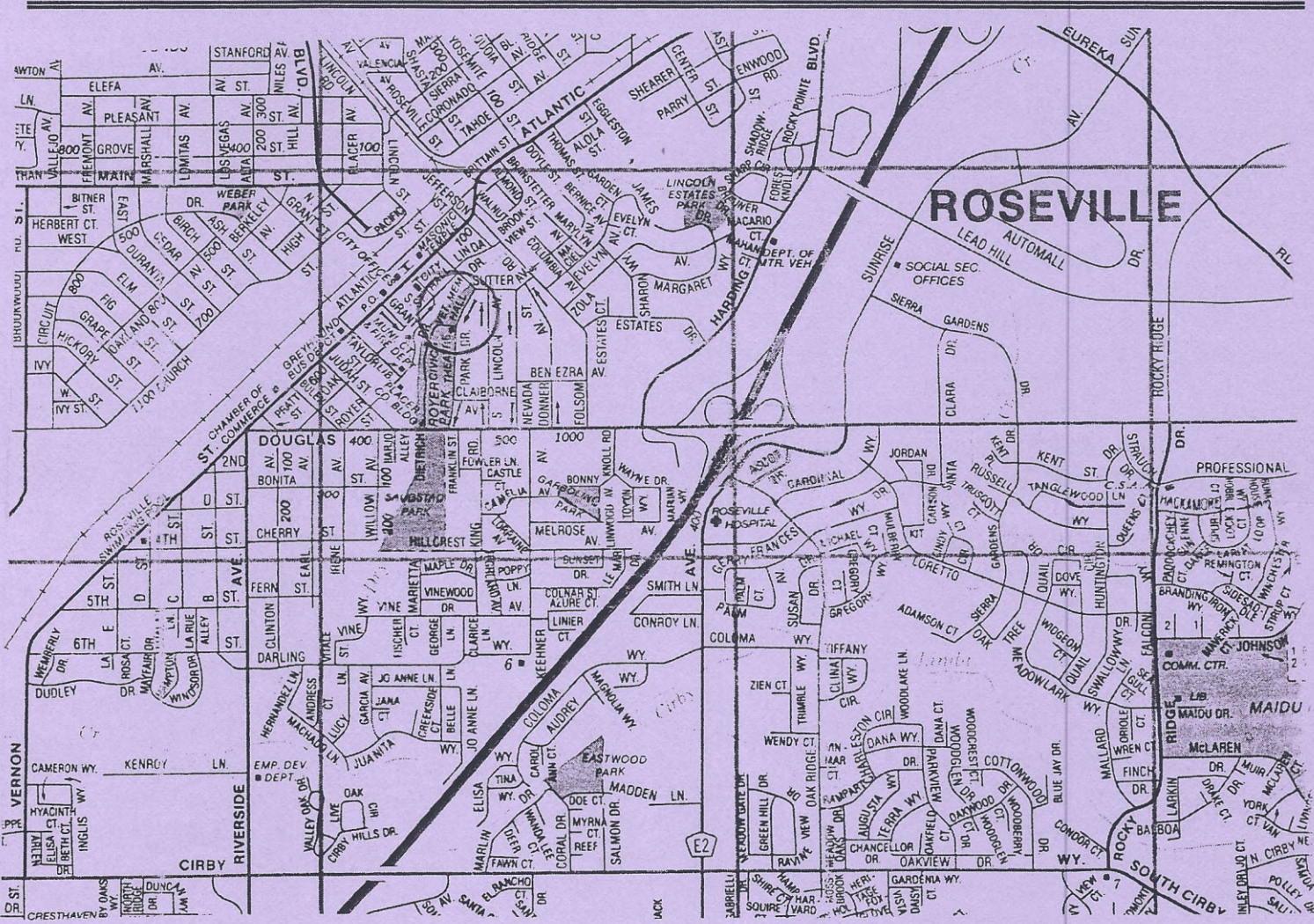
Millennium Beacon Fires

On New Year's Eve, the northwestern part of Sweden rekindled the old custom of beacon fires on mountain tops and along river valleys. Along the beautiful area called the High Cost, more than 40 such beacon fires were lit as a symbol of hope and faith in the new millennium.



The beacon fires, a custom started already during Viking times and originally meant to guard an area and scare off enemies, were used as late as in World War I. The beacons looked like tepees, built from 50-100 tree trunks, chinked with moss, and with an opening at the top to get the proper draft. In times when there was no need to light them, they were actually also usable as places to take cover during bad weather.

- From Vestkusten, 1 Dec 99



**LOCATION OF SIERRA KRONAN'S MEETING PLACE
ROSEVILLE VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL
SUTTER STREET & PARK AVENUE AT ROYER PARK, ROSEVILLE**



Happy Birthday!

1/01 - Brian Anderson
 1/03 - Evy Magneheim
 1/04 - Maureen O'Shay
 1/06 - Michael Churkin
 1/07 - Robert Anderson
 1/07 - Thomas Anderson
 1/08 - Don Carlson
 1/08 - Randy Johnson
 1/08 - Gladys Stangl
 1/09 - Leisma Krastins
 1/12 - Phil Olson
 1/13 - Darlene Palmer
 1/16 - Billye Nelson
 1/21 - LaVerne Gullans
 1/21 - Nancy Maddox
 1/22 - Thelma Badgley
 1/23 - Dee Benson
 1/24 - Brian Stockham
 1/30 - Linda Becker
 1/25 - Birgitta Ellis
 1/25 - Johanna Benker
 1/26 - Andrea Kjelstrom
 1/27 - Ed Dahlberg
 1/31 - Lars Churkin
 1/31 - Frank Peterson

Weak Support for Lower Taxes

The majority of Swedes, 66 percent, want the government to use any budget surplus for education and social services, such as health care and elderly care. Only one in ten wants the budget surplus to be used towards tax cuts.

Support for foreign aid is also on the rise in Sweden. As much as 77 percent of Swedes feel the country should continue to give foreign aid. About the same percentage of Swedes feels that foreign aid is effective and does improve the situation of the recipients.

This increased support has also translated into more donations to relief organizations like the Red Cross that have reported record collections during the past year. Swedes seem to feel that it is not enough to pay for foreign aid only through taxes and are more willing to pay from their own pockets.

- Swedish Press, Dec 99

January Dues Anniversaries

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

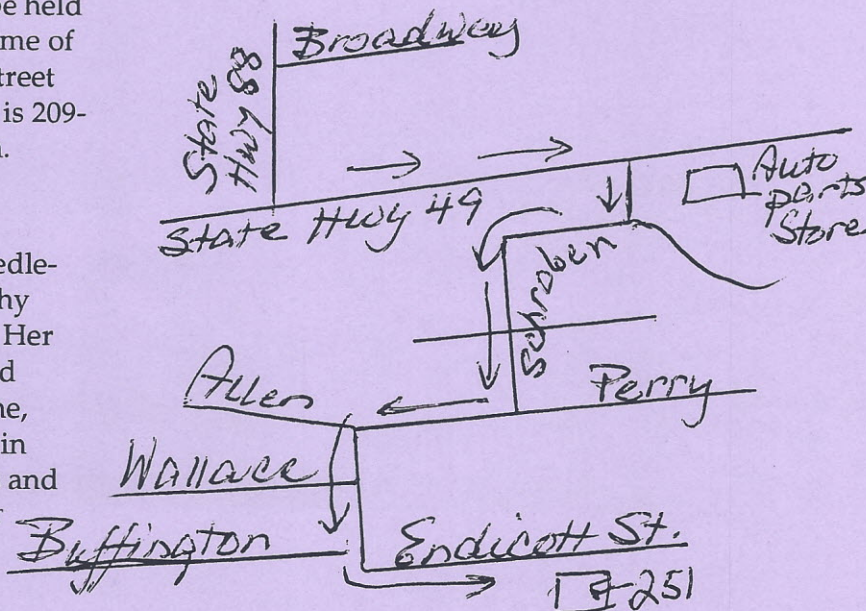
Gerda Anderson
 Britt-Marie and Lennart Anderson
 Thelma and Charles Badgley
 Joy Carlson
 Linnea Carlson
 Edwin Cook
 Birgit Dillard
 Estrid Doscher
 Richard and Gloria Eriksson
 Kathleen Goldsberry
 Stanley Hagstrom
 Kerstin and Kjell Hakansson
 Dale Ingvarsen
 Herb and Mildred Johnson
 Karin Johnson
 Charles Linn
 Barbara Lutz
 Berthell and Charles Nelson
 Barbara and Wendell Olson
 Birgitta Ostlund
 Frank and Gladys Stangl
 Helen Starkey
 Arlie Veis

Nål och Tråd

The next Nål och Tråd meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 12, 10 am**, at the home of Ruby and John Anderson, 215 Endicott Street in Jackson (see map). The phone number is 209-223-1049. Please bring a brown-bag lunch.

Like Embroidery?

If you like to do a cross stitch or a needlepoint project with a Swedish slant, Dorothy Runbeck Stout has just the thing for you. Her book "Swedish Folk Costumes for Charted Needlework" (\$27.95 from 709 Randy Lane, Columbia, MO 65201) contains costumes in clear charts, as well as decorative borders and lettering so that you can personalize your composition. (From Swedish Press, Dec. 99)

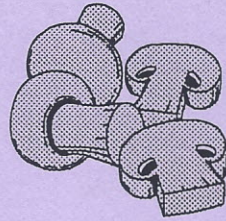


Per Request

At our *smörgåsbord* meeting in December, many members asked for the recipe for Ellen Harrod's mushroom paté. So here it is:

1/2 cup long grain rice
 2 lb mushrooms, diced
 3 medium onions, diced
 1 clove garlic, diced
 50 gram (2 oz) diced filberts or walnuts
 50 gram butter (1/2 a stick)
 2 eggs
 1/4 liter (1 pint) heavy cream
 2 tsp coarse salt
 Fresh ground pepper
 1 tsp thyme or tarragon, optional

Cook the rice and let it cool. Mix together the diced mushrooms, onions, garlic, nuts and



herbs. In a large pan sauté half of the mixture in the butter until golden brown. Pour

it into a mixing bowl and sauté the rest of the mixture. Add the cooked rice, eggs, cream, salt and pepper to the mushroom mix and blend it well together. Pour it into a buttered 2 qt form and bake it uncovered in the middle of the oven at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Address Changes

According to the US Postal Service, the following members have new addresses:

Evelyn Anderson
 3950 Annadale Lane
 Sacramento, CA 95821

Daniel Backman
 P.O. Box 214183
 Sacramento, CA 95821

Deadline

for the February newsletter, is **Monday, January 10**. 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.

Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

(Do not pronounce single letters in brackets)

Swedish: Du får inte göra så.
 Sounds like: Dew for inte youra saw.
 English: You may not do that.

Swedish: Ja, men det vill jag.
 Sounds like: Ya, men de[t] vill ya.
 English: Yes, but I want to (do that).



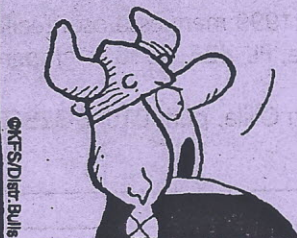
Swedish: Ursäkta mig, jag glömde Tacksägelse-dagen i November-bulletinen.

Sounds like: Oorsecta (as in insect) may, ya glomde (o like ieu in milieu), Tack (a as in ah) sägelse (say gel say)the g is hard (like girl) dagen.

English: Excuse me, I forgot to mention Thanksgiving Day in the November newsletter.

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VISST ÄR DET MÄRKLIGT...BEFINNER VI OSS I SAMMA RUM OCH JAG BER DEJ OM NÅT, SÅ HÖR DU MEJ INTE...



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...MEN OM DU ÄR UTOMHUS, KAN DU ALLTID HÖRA NÄR JAG SÄTTER EN TALLRIK PÅ BORDET!!



CHRIS
 BIZONNE
 9-30

Christmas Goat Traditions

The Swedish Yuletide Billy-Goat is a typical Swedish Christmas decoration, usually made of straw. It is the oldest Christmas symbol that Swedes have, probably descending from the god Thor's goat or the figure of the devil which was included in the St. Nicholas revels put on by schools in the Middle Ages. Later, the *julbock* became the leading character in an odd little Christmas play which young people would perform as they did the rounds of homesteads, collecting food and drink for their dancing. Someone would dress up as a goat and participate in the villagers' larks and pranks.

From this developed a tradition of making Christmas goats and giving them anonymously to friends. The goat was accompanied by a funny but naughty comment about the recipient or something that had taken place during the year.

During the 18th century, the goat mellowed and all connections with the devil were forgotten. Now in the form of a goat mask, the Billy-Goat was entrusted with the distribution of gifts on Christmas Eve. When this job was taken over by *jultomten*, the goat was demoted and given the purely ornamental position that it now holds.

Today there are concerns that the authentic *julbock* will soon be extinct. Modern farmers have better things to do than to spend dark autumn evenings sitting in the cottage and working with straw. Fewer and fewer people are mastering this old form of art that requires two sheaves of rye, some hemp to bind him with, and five meters of red cotton ribbon. Today even the straw is in short supply. The straw has to be from the rye plant, thick, smooth and preferably a little greenish in color. After Sweden introduced a ban on the use of chemicals that helped to keep the straw short, the straw no longer has these qualities.

Straw ornaments are among the oldest in Sweden. Straw was the most natural and obvious choice as a material for Christmas ornaments. In the old days, it was common to spread straw on the floor on Christmas Eve. The idea was to make it warm and cozy but there was also an association to baby Jesus in the cradle. There was always a straw chandelier hanging over the Christmas table.

Originally the straw ornaments were not only for decoration. They were also an attempt from the heathen times to please the gods and to ensure that there would be a good harvest during the coming year.

The town in Lindsborg in Kansas has created a permanent 42-foot tall goat, the largest in the world. "Move over Rudolph," wrote the Wall Street Journal in an article about the Lindsborg goat.



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

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