

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 24, No. 5

May 2000

Our May meeting will offer another great dinner with the men cooking for the women for *Mors Dag*. What a treat! This meeting will be held on **Friday, May 5**, with refreshments at 6 pm and dinner at 6:30.

This will be not only our Mother's Day dinner but also a special children's night. They will be part of the program. We also hope to announce the scholarship recipient. And Carol Churkin, our cultural leader, always has something special for us.

For all this, we will only charge the men \$5 and the women \$2.50 to cover expenses.

There will be no business meeting, only a lot of fun. And do bring all your items for the rummage sale the next day!

— Margaret Carlson

Next Business Meeting

Since we are not conducting any business at our May 5 social, we will have a separate business meeting on **Tuesday, May 16, at 7 pm**, at Ellen Harrod's house. Please come and help run our lodge.

For instance, we'll need to discuss our summer activities. The next newsletter will be the last one before summer break, so we should firm up our plans and have all the information listed in the June newsletter.

Rummage Sale

Our next huge rummage sale will take place on **Saturday, May 6, 9 am to 3 pm**. We will have it at Wisteria Hall, our regular monthly meeting place.

We all accumulate a lot of stuff we're never going to use. Here's your opportunity to put these items to good use—and, at the same time, make your house is little less packed.

You can bring your items to the Friday night Mother's Day social or early Saturday morning. Our baked goods went over very well at our last sale, so we're going to need a lot.

Be sure to do all your friends and neighbors a favor and tell them about this great sale. **WE NEED LOTS OF PUBLICITY!**

Wanted

We're looking for a member with a talent for calligraphy or nice printing. From time to time, we're going to need names printed nicely on certificates, awards, etc. This is not going to be a very time-consuming job, so please contact our Chairman David Benson if you can help out.

Best Wishes

We really feel for our Chairman David Benson. He is bedridden, suffering great pain with a nasty back problem. Get well soon, David!

Scandinavian Festival

The Scandinavian Festival was a success. As always, there was a Flag Ceremony, and Peter Kågström of Monitor's Children's Club was the Swedish flag bearer. Our Valley Viking Singers, under the direction of Marianne Ek, sang the anthem of each country. The children and several dance groups and musicians performed.

This event would not have been so successful without the help of so many volunteers, such as Art Niemoller in charge of pancakes; Margaret Carlson and Dorothy Mogford handling the crafts table; Dorothy Scherer, Louise Sims, and Myrtle Widmark provided sandwiches; Bea Dillard and Ingrid Gilchrist manned the information table; and Ingrid Kennedy and Elizabeth Swenson organized the coffee, just to mention a few.

Next year, we hope to see many new members working at the festival. Our thanks to everyone for all the help!

— Myrtle Widmark,
Monitor Representative

Pot Luck Meeting

Our post-festival potluck meeting will be held on **Monday, May 8, at 6:30**, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue, North Sacramento. Everyone is invited to come and to bring a dish to share.

CSUS Movies

The Foreign Language Department of the California State University, Sacramento, is sponsoring two films in May:

☐ **May 11, 8 pm** - ANTONIA (1995) in the University Union

☐ **May 18, 8 pm** - The Ingmar Bergman film SCENER UR ETT ÄKTENSKAP (Scenes from a marriage) in the University Union, Hinde Auditorium

If you have any questions, call the Foreign Language Department at 278-6333.

IKEA Trip

Referring back to the article on page 3 of the April newsletter, we are hoping to take a trip to the newly opened IKEA store in Emeryville. It's the first such store in Northern California. We can go by bus or we can car pool, depending on the number of members interested in making this excursion.

We need to know if we have enough interest, so if you would like to go, please call Dee or David Benson, 933-5502.

Deadline

for the June-July newsletter is **Friday, May 12**, the last newsletter before summer break. This is the date the editor starts working on the newsletter—first thing in the morning. Any items not received by that date stand the risk of not being included.

Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317. Or you can send it to e-mail address iken@gvn.net.

✦ Birgitta's Swedish Sentences ✦

Swedish: Förlåt att jag glömde Glad Påsk i april
 Sounds like: Furlot (as in more) att (as in some) ja glömde (ö as in fur; e as in get)
 Glad (as in far) Posk (as in more) ee april (as in some)
 English: Forgive me that I forgot Glad Påsk in April



Swedish: Blommorna vända sina ansikten mot solen
 Sounds like: Blommorna vända (as i air) seena (as in see; a as in some) ansikten
 (a as in some; i as in Indian; e as in get) moot (as in school) solen (as in school)
 English: The flowers turn their faces toward the sun

Swedish: Vi firar svensk vår den första maj
 Sound like: Vee feerar svensk vooor (as in poor) den fursta may (a as in some; y as in year)
 English: We celebrate Swedish spring on the First of May

H H
 A A
 G N
 B D
 A F
 R A
 D S
 T E



Roster Changes

We extend a **Hjärtligt Välkomna** to our new members! Please add them to your program books:

Bud Mogford
181 Whispering Pines
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
635-4541

Maria Dahlman
12858 Manna Lane
Loma Rica, CA 95901
530/749-7400

Joan Hagstrom
8871 Sharkey Avenue
Elk Grove, CA 95624
685-4481

Henrik Jul Hansen
2509 E Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
443-3359

Elsa Herman
3492 Misty Morning Circle
Sacramento, CA 95827
368-5773

Thresa Tomka
4018 Coppertree Way
Sacramento, CA 95821
972-9805

We also have an address change:

Jill and Brian Stockham
P.O. Box 2003
Elk Grove, CA 95759
(It's a new mailing address only; they have not moved.)

Robert and Louise Johnson
now have an address in Scotland.

And the postal service was unable to forward the newsletters to Linnea Carlson and Betty Schoepf. If someone has a new address for these members, please let the editor know.

Happy Birthday!



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
5/13 - Bud Mogford
5/14 - LaVerne Griffin
5/15 - Nancy Misenti
5/16 - B. Kay Ericson
5/18 - Charles Nelson
5/25 - Frances Misenti

Praise for the Workers

The delicious food that is so much a part of any Vasa Order gathering is always enjoyed by members and guests. Although we thank the cooks at every occasion, it seems appropriate to make special mention of those who are often found in the kitchen. Under the able direction of Margaret Carlson, reliable workers Ernie Skorheim, Ed Dahlberg, Donn Stafford, and Larry Hultquist have given generously of their time and



talents. Margaret does planning and purchasing as well as cooking. Ken Kjelstrom has used his expertise as chef and caterer to produce some notable meals. Donn Stafford installed a new exhaust fan in the kitchen at Wisteria Hall.

Several members have graciously hosted our annual events. Bea Dillard and Kenneth and Peggy Carlson have hosted the crayfish parties. Herring breakfasts have been held at the homes of Ed and Lucy Dahlberg, Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch, and Myrtle Widmark.

Dale Ingvarsen, Gail Nemy, Lars Ostlund, and Jim Woodstrom manage the bar operation very efficiently. Dale Ingvarsen and John Woodstrom worked to improve the sound system.

We all appreciate the work done by those named and all the others who have helped with the meals and the meetings.

– Dorothy Scherer

HELP!

I will be doing just ONE more newsletter. The next one will not have to be composed until mid August. However, it would be best to have a new editor and mailer a lot sooner. I could help my successor(s) a lot by sharing files, hints, and past experiences before I leave the area.

If you have experience with word processing, I recommend the job. It's one volunteer task that is independent and can be done in the comfort of your own home at your own convenience (more or less). Call Dave Benson.

– Ingrid Kennedy

May Dues Anniversaries

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

- Christine Bodelson
- Kerstin Doze
- Marianne Ek
- Astrid Horyza
- Charles Johnson
- Jeanine Lokey
- Gail Nemy
- Eivor and Kurt Pfannkuch
- Thelma Range
- 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, Johanna Benker, 7881 Charlotte Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688. If you would like a receipt or membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Please call Johanna (707/446-2718) if you have questions or if there are errors on this list.

Nål och Tråd

Attention all Monitor members: the “needle and thread” group will hold its next meeting on **Wednesday, May 17, at 10 am**, at the new home of Elizabeth and Harry Johnson, 697 Halidon Way, Folsom. **RSVP 984-7563**. This is a potluck, so come with your favorite dish: salad, main dish, or a dessert.



This will be the last meeting until September and we need ideas for new items to make. There will be books and patterns available for sharing. Some of us will be working on articles during the summer. There will also be a report from the chairpersons of the craft table at the Scandinavian Festival.

We'll have a table set up for Mother's Day gifts at the *Mors Dag* dinner on May 5. Here are the directions:

- 1) Take I50 to Folsom, Prairie City exit, and turn left
- 2) Take Prairie City Road past the highschool and

Sweden Tour

Hank Hjersman (451-6940) has received information from the Swedish-American Historical Society about a “Holiday Lights” tour to Sweden December 1-17. If you would like more informa-



tion, contact Eloise or LeRoy Nelson, Tour Escorts, at 773/539-4361 or e-mail them at elnelson@gateway.net.

The tour price is \$2,495 per person plus air fare of \$716 from Chicago or \$852 from Seattle. The reservation deadline is September 1, but there is a \$50 early-bird discount with a \$200 down payment by May 15.

The program includes travel through Sweden by deluxe motorcoach and focuses on pre-Christmas preparations and celebrations.

Trustee Inventory

The trustees are getting ready to make an inventory of all lodge property. If you have any lodge property, please call or send a list to a trustee so it can be accounted for. And where are all the white ritual books which should be reserved for current officers?

Ernie Skorheim, 482-7039, is the trustee chair.

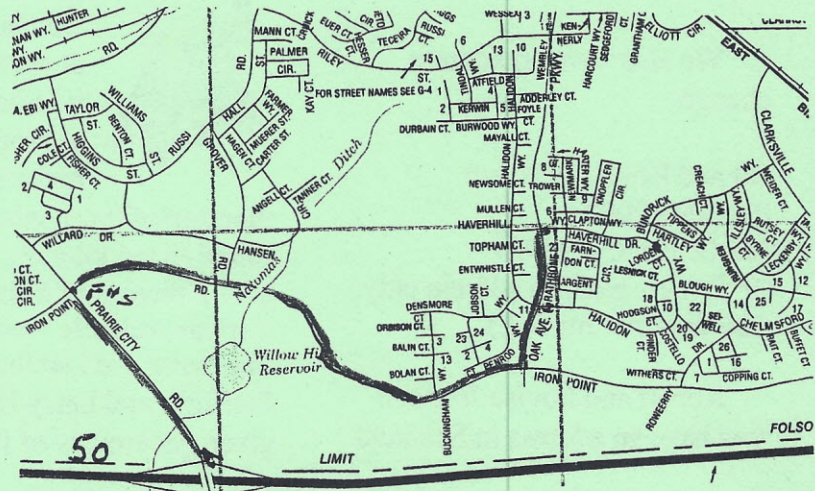
Transportation News

Denmark and Sweden will open the 10-mile Öresund crossing between Copenhagen and Malmö on July 1, completing new rail and auto connections between the Scandinavian peninsula and the European mainland.

Norway will begin operating highspeed trains from Oslo to Stockholm and from Oslo to Bergen and Stavanger this year.

– The Sacramento Bee 3/19/00

- turn right at the end of the playing field (second traffic light) unto Iron Point Road
- 3) Pass one traffic light; at the second stop sign, turn left on Oak Avenue Parkway
- 4) Turn right at the second stop sign. Haverhill becomes Halidon at the bottom of the hill. After the stop sign, we're the sixth house on the left side.



← To Sacramento

X NO VIKING HORNS!!! X

Yes, the Vikings did wear helmets. But no, the helmets did not sport horns! Vikings are not Wagnerian opera. [Editor's remark: So now the Minnesota Vikings football players need to find themselves a new logo.]

This no-horn revelation comes in a April 3, 2000, Newsweek article titled "The Ancient Mariners" on the occasion of the 1,000-year anniversary of the Vikings' landing in Newfoundland. The poor, misunderstood Vikings are known for looting, raiding, marauding—and the world forgets that the Vikings spurred urban development in northern Europe as they turned sleepy shires into bustling trade towns. "And just because the Vikings realized how much portable wealth lay around (they extorted six tons of gold and silver bullion from the Parisians in 845), is that any reason to forget that they invented sails that tack into the wind? asks Sharon Begley, author of this article.

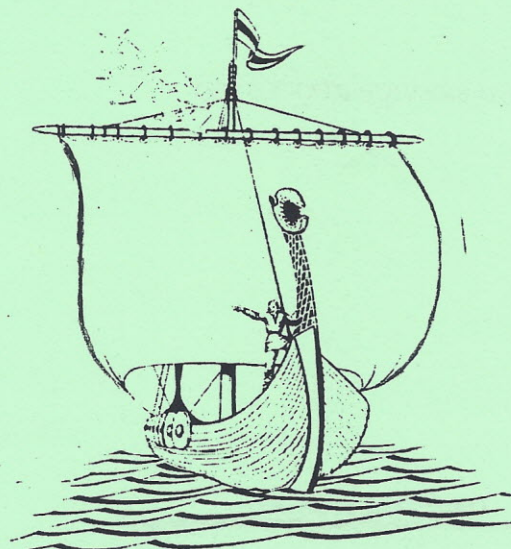
Under the command of Leif Ericson, the Norsemen sought timber for their boats and homes, pasture for their flocks, and grapes for their wineries. But when they encountered the Native Americans, they accomplished much more than a shopping errand: for the first time in human history, the Old World made contact with the New across the Atlantic—"the first step in the process by which human populations became reconnected into a single global system... Humanity had finally come full circle," says archeologist William Futzhugh of the Smithsonian Institution.

"The Viking raids began in the late eighth century, for which you can blame those innocent-looking Danes. Danish kings expanded their hegemony into Sweden and Norway, and many local lords and landowners chose exile and a life of raiding. However, farming, trading and diplomacy soon "became as common as raiding and pillaging for Vikings living abroad," says Mr Futzhugh. Viking legacy goes beyond ruined monasteries. They "redistributed the wealth that was stored in the treasuries of churches, kings and magnates"—a good example of Keynesian economics. This supposedly "brawny, psychotic, battle-crazed berserker" had a sensitive side, too. The Vikings had a rich artistic life, shown by silver figurines, ornate tapestries, and ivory chessmen. They had a pantheon of gods and goddesses that put the Greeks to shame. And with this tradition of polytheism, adding Jesus to the list was no problem.

Any recounting of the Vikings is duty-bound to note that theirs was an agricultural economy, and that while men "went a-Viking" their extended families stayed behind to raise grain, cabbage, onions, peas, beans, cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. But even Viking farmhouses seemed as if they wanted to be elsewhere: built with bowed walls and a curved roof ridge, they resembled upended ships. These were truly people of the sea, able to read the swells and winds, the altitude of the noon sun, and the height of stars above the horizon, well enough to navigate the north Atlantic without instruments. Although they rowed, rowed, rowed their boats until 700, their development of the sail transformed history, for there would have been no Viking age without it: a crew that has rowed from Norway to Paris is in no shape to pillage.

But did the Vikings reach North America half a millennium before Columbus? Few people believed the Vinland sagas until the 1960 discovery of the ruins of a Viking settlement dubbed l'Anse aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland. Eight buildings were found, with sturdy roofs and thick sod walls, that could house 70 to 90 people. Two huts served as workshops for weaving, iron forging and carpentry. There were pieces of jasper, used to start fires, that could be traced only to Greenland and Iceland. And at l'Anse aux Meadows, Gudrid gave birth to the first European born in America.

"The Old World had reached out across the Atlantic to the New, opening the door to the age of discovery. Not bad for a bunch of looting, raiding marauders," the article ends.



Rummage Sale and Swedish Bake Sale

❖ **Saturday, May 6, 2000, 9 AM - 3 PM** ❖

at Wisteria Hall, 3830 U Street, Sacramento

Presented by the Monitor Lodge of the Vasa Order of America
a Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

❖ *Enjoy coffee with Swedish
coffee bread or lunch for a
very good price*



❖ *Contribute your unwanted items
and then come to do some great
shopping and eating*

❖ **Remember, one man's junk is another man's treasure** ❖

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

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