

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 24. No. 6

June-July 2000

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 2, WE'LL celebrate *Fars Dag*. It's the ladies' turn to honor the men in the lodge. We'll start with refreshments at 6:00 pm and at 6:30, we'll have a Swedish potluck or *smörgåsbord*. So we're asking all the women to please bring your favorite dish or dessert big enough to serve 12 people. There will be no charge for this feast.

We will again be initiating new members, award this year's Monitor scholarship, and have a short business meeting. Mike Churkin, a Russian in our midst, will talk about the Viking Rus who went eastward and south into Russia.

Mark your calendars!

— Margaret Carlson

Vice Chairman's Message

It was a beautiful dinner evening celebrating Mother's Day. True to form, our cooks, Larry Hultquist, Donn Stafford, and Arlie Vies, charmed us once again with a delicious roast beef dinner with ice cream and strawberries for dessert. Yum, yum! Thanks for helping make the evening so successful.

I cannot think of a nicer way to honor our mothers than to have our Children's Club, led by Christy Kagstrom, provide the cultural program. In addition to

their singing, they demonstrated their skill in "bobbin lace," an art taught to them by Marianne Ek who also furnished a display of this wonderful art.

A number of carnations, provided by Margaret Carlson, were given to honor some of our mothers. In addition to celebrating birthdays, a "Happy Mother's Day" was sung by all. Twenty-five-year membership pins were presented to Joyce and Don Johnson. Congratulations!

A Draping of the Charter honored our departed members Sue Bergman, Charles Badgley and sisters Evelyn Anderson and Cecile Spencer.

A report was given on the recent District 12 Convention with special mention of the Monitor members newly elected to office. *Grattis!*

Lodges are encouraged to submit more scholarship applications.

Jessie Olson reminded those who had bought GGRC shares and wanted monies refunded that they would have to contact her in writing, 1400 N. Tully Road #209, Turlock, CA 95380 by September 1, 2000.

Chairman Benson, we miss you! Please, get well soon.

In Truth and Unity,
Don Carlson

Congratulations!

Following the recent District Convention, held in Redding, several Monitor members now hold district offices. Myrtle Widmark is the new Vice District Master, Carol Churkin will be the District Cultural Leader again, and Margaret Carlson is continuing as the District Historian. Myrtle Widmark is also Monitor's District Deputy.

Special Thanks

to the members who worked very hard for the rummage sale: Ellen Harrod, Ethel Johnson, Dorothy Scherer, Louise Sims, Myrtle Widmark, John and Ruby Anderson, and Dorothy and Bud Møgford. They spent a lot of time setting up Friday, running the sale all day Saturday, and then disposing of the many unsold items.

Very Good News!

This year's Scandinavian Festival, held in April, yielded \$900 for each of the five participating lodges. The many hours of hard work before, during, and after the festival did pay off. Congratulations to us all!

**GLAD
MIDSOMMAR!**

SWEDEN DAY

Saturday, June 3, at Micke Grove Park in Lodi.



This is an all-day event with a special program of singing, dancing, a parade (bring your costume and participate!), arts and crafts demonstrations, and games for the children. Coffee and soft drinks are available but bring your own lunch (there will be a hot barbecue waiting).

Here are the directions: From I-5 take the 8-Mile Road off ramp and travel east for ca 7 miles to Micke Grove Road, turn left, going north to the park entrance. From Highway 99, get off at 8-Mile Road, go west about ½ mile, and turn right on Micke Grove Road.

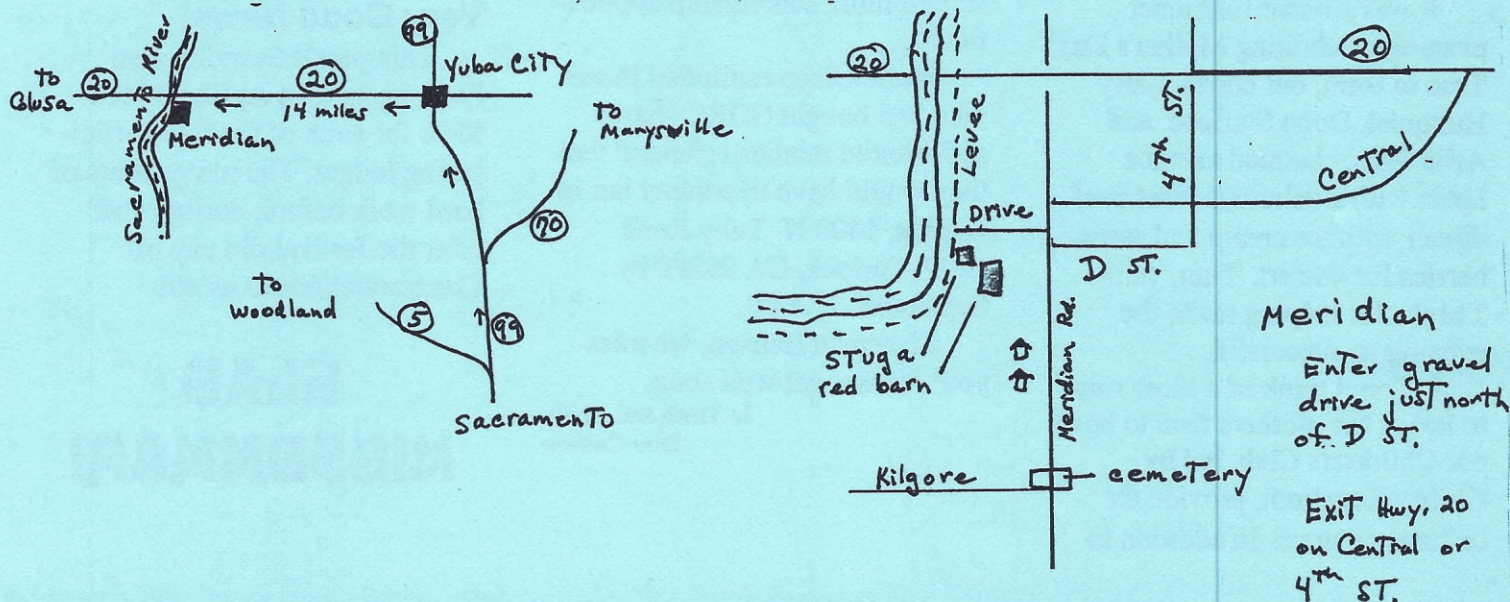
MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 24, at Carol and Mike Churkin's *stuga* in Meridian.

Here's quoting from the book *Of Swedish Ways*: "Midsommar! To a Swede the word holds joy and visions of sunny meadows, shimmering waters, the rhythmic beats of an accordion or a fiddle, dancing around the Maypole and a sun that at midnight seems to linger by the horizon only to rise in full blaze again. Every family, every individual, anticipates the occasion eagerly and one common urge grips all: to be outside whether by a lake shore or in the country. All work is abandoned; picnic baskets are packed. Relatives and friends congregate; young people get acquainted."

Monitor Lodge and Sierra Kronan Lodge are joining in a midsummer celebration at the Churkin's walnut ranch on the Sacramento River. We'll begin at 2 pm working on the Maypole which will be raised, hopefully by 4 pm, when we'll break into song and dance around the Maypole, celebrating the summer solstice, longest days of the year, and the advent of summer. **Bring an armful of flowers** if you want to help decorate. We'll enjoy a potluck supper and music will continue into the evening as the spirit moves. Fishermen: Bring your pole and try a few casts off the bank (you can call Mike about what's running at the time). Stroll the levee as the sun sets over the river. Enjoy an afternoon and evening in the Swedish countryside!

Bring a contribution to a potluck supper and a folding table and chairs if you have them. We'll have paper plates, utensils, and napkins. Soft drinks and wine will be available. Come dressed like a Scandinavian if you have a costume or can rig one up. If it's warm, throw in a change or a bathing suit to go under the hose. We'll have some kids' activities, but all ages will have fun joining in the ring dancing. Plan to come, bring the whole family and a Scandinavian neighbor or friend. Let's celebrate!





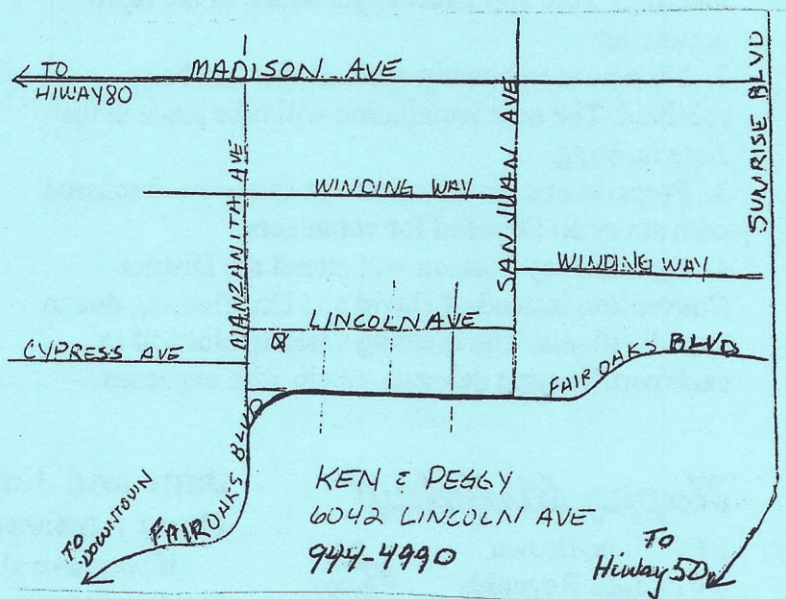
KRÄFTKALAS

Saturday, August 19, at the home of Ken and Peggy Carlson

Our crayfish party will again be held at the home of the Carlsons at 6042 Lincoln Avenue, Carmichael (see map). We had a really good time there last year. Come again and enjoy a real Swedish *kräftkalas* with lanterns, music, aquavit, etc. We think \$5 will cover the cost of the crayfish, which we will supplement with potluck dishes. Please bring a dish to serve at least 12 people. If you have a folding table and chairs, do bring them. All ages are invited for a fun-filled evening.

We'll start with a short business meeting at 6 pm. Music and beverages will open the social hour at 6:30, but the party will officially blast off at 7 pm. This is one of our best evenings of the year. Come and enjoy!

[NOTE: This is our last newsletter for the summer, so there won't be a reminder. Do put the summer events on your calendar and save your newsletter with the details.



Anniversary Meeting

The 88th anniversary of Monitor Lodge was celebrated in style on April 15. We didn't even have to cook! Two employees from the Folsom-Cordova School District, Jude Huetter and Melodie Hoshaw, fixed a tasty dinner of both green salad and fruit salad, ham, mashed potatoes, and vegetables, rolls and butter, and we had a beautiful anniversary cake for dessert.

It was an appropriate occasion, indeed, to honor special members: as many as eight past chairmen were in attendance and awarded pins. Long-time members were given 15- and 25-year pins. In a class all by herself was Louise Center, who had earned a 50-year membership pin! All the procedures were handed ably by Vice Chairman Don Carlson in David Benson's absence. David, our chairman,

had worked hard to plan this evening with all the awards and we were very sorry that he could not be with us. Hope your health is restored soon, David.

We were honored to have our District Master, Ken Hanlon, and his wife celebrate with us. We also received a letter of congratulations from Bob Bergman, our Grand Lodge Deputy.

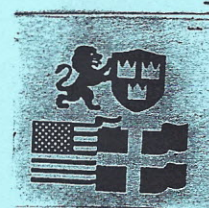
Monitor's very own choir, The Valley Viking Singers, under the direction of Marianne Ek, provided much appreciated musical entertainment. Among other people, who made this evening a success, was Margaret Carlson who (among other things) had decorated all the tables. Dale Ingvarsen got the loud speaker going and provided fitting Swedish background music. Birgitta Ostlund told about Easter celebrations in Sweden, all dressed up as an Easter witch

—broom, coffee pot and all. Margaret Carlson also brought an Easter basket to be raffled off containing various items, such as linen disk towels, wooden spoon and fork, Aquavit, yellow peas for Swedish pea soup, etc. Deidre Dahlberg was the lucky winner.

And thanks to Jim Woodstrom, expert carpenter, we now have a large, BEAUTIFUL wood stand with a bulletin board and lots of individual slots for all our name tags. An extraordinary work of art, Jim, and it's practical, too! *Tusen tack!*

We had a full house, we sure enjoyed ourselves and we're proud of all the members who have kept this lodge going for 88 years.

— Ingrid Kennedy



April 18 Business Meeting

1. Minutes from the February and March business meetings were approved as published in the April newsletter.
2. No new membership applications had been received. The next installation will take place at the June meeting.
3. Preparations for the rummage sale were discussed with stress on the need for volunteers.
4. Don and Joy Carlson will attend the District Convention instead of David and Dee Benson, due to David's illness. The meeting voted to allot \$50 to each participating delegate to help with expenses.

5. The lodge will not renew the contract for public storage. The trustees will review the content and move historical records to the small, inner room at Wisteria Hall.
6. It was again suggested that housebound members be visited more often than on a few, special holidays.
7. Midsummer will be celebrated at Carol and Mike Churkin's summer house. Tom Anderson has a may pole, and Lisa Bleasdale will be in charge of decorations and dancing. A district cultural seminar will be held at Wisteria Hall on October 7.

– Dorothy Scherer, Acting Secretary

Happy Birthday!

- 6/01 - June Brown
- 6/01 - Jack Reynolds
- 6/01 - Elsa Cisar
- 6/02 - Audrey Olson-Smith
- 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
- 6/20 - 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 - Kathy Foley
- 7/18 - Madeleine Hallstrom
- 7/24 - Joyce Johnson
- 7/25 - Henrik Jul Hansen
- 7/27 - Angus MacDonell
- 7/28 - Lars-Erik Hammarin
- 7/29 - James Woodstrom
- 7/31 - Leo Krastins



June and July Dues Anniversaries

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

In June

- Brian Anderson
- Greg and Lin Anderson
- Daniel Backman
- Linda Becker
- Jamie Canaday
- Don Carlson
- Lars Churkin
- Beatrix Clark
- Diane Curtis
- Christina Fletcher
- Naomi Fletcher
- Kathy Foley
- Lars-Erik Hammarin
- Ellen Harrod
- Karl-Heinz Henning
- Christina Holm-Bittner
- Jean Holmquist
- Andrea Kjelstrom
- Kent Kjelstrom
- Liesma Krastins
- George Lively
- Angus MacDonell
- Nancy Maddox
- Beatrice and Harold Mattson
- Frances Misenti
- Nancy Misenti

- Dorothy Mogford
- Billye Nelson
- Kenneth Olson
- Christine Peterson
- Jack Reynolds
- Ernest and Juanita Skorheim
- Brenda Spanfelner
- Michelle and Clyde Waldrop
- Dorothy and Jim Woodstrom

In July

- Birgitta Ellis
- Henry Hjersman
- Donn Stafford
- Lillian Stafford
- Sigrid Thorsen

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, 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.



Nominations for Officers

Our nominating committee will start working soon on a slate of officers for next year. The committee will be contacting members to serve as officers or appointees. This is a great opportunity to support your lodge and to get to know other members. So let the committee know if you are interested, or you may nominate someone you believe would be good officer.

Please contact Art Niemoller at 631-9330 or Arlene Ericson, 736-3923.

Swedish Jazz Musician

Our resident musician, Marianne Ek, tells us that during the spring and summer of 2000, the Sacramento Traditional Jazz society is presenting a series of jazz Sundays. They take place at the Elks Club, corner of Riverside & Florin Road, and adults pay \$10. Refreshments are available.

The July 9 performance will feature a Swedish musician, Erling Ribbing. The doors open at 11:30 and Mr Ribbing will start playing around 12:30 or 1:00 pm. He first played on national

television in Sweden as a 15-year old. Primarily a clarinet player he also plays tenor sax and baritone sax, he is a composer, toured internationally, made albums, and performed numerous times on TV and in radion concerts. He now plays on a band called *Sveriges Jazz* which has recorded 15 albums. (See also www.sjb-jazz.com)

Along the way, Erling Ribbing also acquired a Ph.D. degree in Sociology and taught at Southern Illinois University.



Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

A Swedish table prayer - En svensk bordsbön

Swedish: I Jesu namn till bords vi gå

Sounds like: E (as in eat) Yesu namn (a as in some; mn=bring each letter together as one sound) til boards (oo as in school) vee gau (as in faught)

English: In Jesu's name we come to the table

Swedish: Välsigna Gud den mat vi få

Sounds like: Velsigna (e as in well; signa as in signature) Gud (hard G-sound; u=a long-sounding vowel, lips tightly closed as when you whistle) den (as in English a den) mat (a as in sharp) vee få (å as in more or in faught)

English: Bless, oh God, the food that we receive

Swedish: Gud Dig till ära oss till gagn

Sound like: Gud (see above) Dig (i as in Indian; g has a hard consonant sound) tj (as in until) aira (English air; a as in some) oss (o as in often, a short vowel) til gagn (g is hard, gn as in German Angst=letter n pronounced before g though as one sound, not separated)

English: God to your glory and to us for our use

Swedish: Vi njuta dem i Jesu namn. Amen

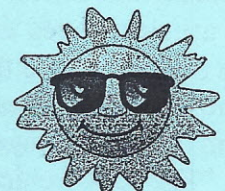
Sounds like: Vee njuta (nj=nyuta; yu as in few, a as in some) dem (e as in get) i (as in Indian) Yesu namn (see first sentence above) Amen (A has two choices: a long vowel as in bar or A as in some. Pronounce the whole word as Ammen: two consonants make the a short)

English: We enjoy them in the name of Jesus. Amen (so be it)

Swedish: Glad sommar!

Sound like: Glad (a as in bar) sommar (o as in often=short o in Swedish; a as in some)

English: Happy summer!



Bon Voyage, Ingegerd

Esteemed newsletter editor Ingegerd (also known as Ingrid) Kennedy is leaving to reside near family in southern California. Ingegerd has been a member of Monitor Lodge for 10 years. In that time she has been elected to a number of offices and has been secretary for the Scandinavian Festival for several years.

An exceptional contribution has been as editor of our newsletter for 7 years, keeping us informed of lodge activities and sharing Scandinavian cultural information. Her enthusiasm and talent has been evident in the consistently high quality of the publication.

Ingegerd, we will miss you as a member of the Monitor family. We thank you for your many contributions and wish you well in your new home. We know that some Vasa lodge will be enriched by your energy and talent.

At the Fars Dag dinner on June 2, we will be honoring Ingegerd for her many contributions.

— David Benson, Chairman

IKEA IS OPEN

The Sacramento Bee (4/13/00) carried another long article with large pictures about the new IKEA store in Emeryville: "Northern Californians now have a place better suited to their sophisticated tastes." This time the article covered the opening of this Swedish home furnishings store (the 14th in America) with a team of 350 employees.

"The 1500-vehicle parking lot was nearly full an hour before the

doors opened. By that point, the line of people stretched nearly half a mile, starting at the store's entrance, circling deep into the parking lot, then twisting behind the building," writes The Bee. At the head of the line was someone who had been in line for more than 19 hours. An estimated 20,000 people entered the store's gates on April 12, opening day.

Vestkusten (4/15/00) said it "sounds crazy that a new store is attracting so much interest," but "shopping at IKEA is a unique experience in a number of ways." For one thing, the sheer size of the store offers a variety of things you will not find anywhere else. And, of course, IKEA's prices are unbeatable. "The whole philosophy is based on giving you good design and quality at a reasonable price." There is a fun, supervised, indoor playground right inside the door, leaving parents free to concentrate on the task of shopping. In an attractive, light-filled cafeteria with a view of the Bay, you can feast on Swedish-style food like meatballs, herring and salmon, good coffee and delicious pastries. You can also buy frozen meatballs, jars of herring and jams, Swedish chocolate and pastries, etc.

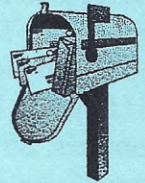
LET'S GET TOGETHER
ENOUGH PEOPLE TO RUN
OVER THERE! CALL DAVID
OR DEE BENSON AND TELL
THEM YOU'RE INTERESTED.



Address Changes

Please make sure to bring your program book up to date with the following changes:

Linnea Carlson
c/o Azevedo
3 Gregor Lane
Novato, CA 94947
(415) 898-9129



Birgitta Coffey
4985 Primrose Drive
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
536-0600

Estrid Doscher is at the same address but in a new apartment:
641 Feature Drive, Apt 117

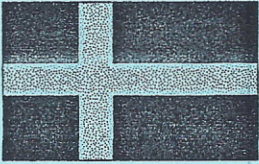
Cultural Cities

For some time, the 15-nation European Union has selected a cultural capital for each year. Stockholm was the 1998 selection. For this millennium year, however, the EU has picked as many as nine cultural sites, among them these cities in the Nordic countries:

Bergen, Norway: Highlights in the gateway to Norway's fjord country include an International Dance Festival in March and a Music Festival in May.

Helsinki, Finland: Leader in design, architecture, and music. The "Find" design exhibition runs throughout the year; the summer Helsinki Festival offers the pick of all the arts.

Reykjavik, Iceland: Marking the 1,000 anniversary of Iceland's Christianization and of Leif Ericson's voyage to North America, the city will celebrate with artists of every description.



SWEDEN'S NATIONAL DAY

Most countries celebrate as a national day their day of independence. Sweden has always been independent and, consequently, the celebration of a national day has not been a long-held Swedish tradition.

Since 1983, however, June 6 is Swedish National Day. It is still observed with a lot less flair than most other national days. It is not even a holiday. This is perhaps because demonstrations of overt patriotism have always been viewed with a certain amount of suspicion in Sweden. June 6 has been called Swedish Flag Day for much longer and as such it has been celebrated in Sweden since 1916. The significance of June 6 is twofold. This was the day **Gustav Vasa** laid the foundation of Sweden as a separate state in 1523. And then in 1809, this was the day that Sweden adopted a new constitution, which defined a balance of power between the King and the parliament and included the establishment of civil rights and liberties.

In the years round the previous turn of the century, there was an upsurge of romantic national sentiment and many enthusiasts wanted Sweden to have a national day like other countries did. One of the choices for such a day was November 6. This was the day King Gustav II Adolf, the great general and statesman, died in the Battle of Lützen against the German Imperial forces in 1632. This used to be a day of celebration with patriotic speeches in schools and military barracks. Today, you may find the Gustav Adolf pastry served with afternoon coffee in some patriotic institutions. Another choice of a national day was November 30, the day Karl XII died.

But June 6 emerged as a good choice and from 1916 onwards on this day, the King presented flags to leaders of scout brigades, The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and various associations and organizations in a great festival parade at the Stockholm Stadium. Around 1939, at the outbreak of World War II, the celebration enjoyed great popularity and crowds of up to 20,000 at the Stadium were not unusual. June 6 became a manifestation of national unity and independence in the face of a war, the horrors of which Sweden was spared.

During the 1950s, interest for the flag day waned and festivities were moved to Skansen, the open-air museum, at the same time as the military element almost disappeared.

Besides perhaps attending an official ceremony somewhere in town, most Swedes today do not celebrate the national day in any particular way except for raising the Swedish flag that symbolizes the pride and soul of Sweden.

— From *Swedish Press*, June 1999

It's Crayfish Time Soon

A lot of Swedish-American organizations end their summer break with a crayfish party. The tradition to gather for **kräftkalas** in August continues although the ban to fish crayfish any other time of the year was lifted a few years ago. Dark August evenings, lit up by both the real moon and those Japanese paper moon lanterns, continue to be the time the Swedes in all part of the world gather to each crayfish. In Sweden, this popular tradition has made Swedes into the world's biggest consumers of crayfish.

Crayfish were generally not eaten in Sweden before the 18th century, but today Swedes have made up for that ignorance with a vengeance. Almost 3,000 metric tons of the critters have been imported from



the US, Spain, Turkey, Russia, and China each year after the crayfish pest knocked out a big part of the native crayfish in the 1980s. After introducing new varieties into the waters, several hundred tons are now caught in Swedish waters as well.

If you catch your own crayfish, or buy them live at markets, here's an old traditional recipe:

1 ½ to 3 quarts water ½ cup coarse salt
3-6 lumps of sugar Lots of dill

Rinse live crayfish in cold water. Check that all are alive. Allow water and spices to boil for 15 minutes. Drop crayfish into rapidly boiling water, a few at the time. Continue filling the pot with crayfish as long as boiling water covers them. Cover with the dill and put on lid. Cook for 10 additional minutes. Crayfish are ready to eat as soon as they have cooled.

— From *Vestkusten*, 9/15/99



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MOT DOM STORA GRABBARNA!



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SÄTT?

ATTILA HAR JUST SLAGIT SEJ
SAMMAN MED DJINGIS KHAN



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