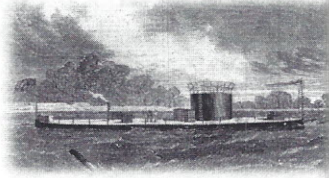


MONITOR LODGE NO. 218 CHARTERED APRIL 8, 1912

THE



MONITOR

Kurt Pfannkuch, Chairman—**Johanna Benker**, Vice Chairman—**Charles Rea**, Secretary—**Karen Sandberg**, Assistant Recording Secretary, **Yvonne Magneheim**, Financial Secretary—**Lillian Stafford**, Assistant Financial Secretary—**Karin Johnson**, Treasurer

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HEADS UP

8/16

Crawfish Party

5:30 Bus. Mtg.

6:00 Social

7:00 Eat

9/5

Kaffekalas

(No Dinner)

7:00

Initiation, Nominating
Committee Report

9/10

2009 Program Plan-
ning Meeting

9/13

Scandinavian Festival

TIME OFF IN SWEDEN

In a world of vacations, Swedes play in a leisurely league of their own. Take Magnus Engren. After spending three weeks in July split between a summer cottage and a hometown visit, he is now back at his work as an investigator at the Swedish tax agency, "completely rested," he said. But he is far from done vacationing. This autumn, Engren, 41, will go for two weeks to Spain with his family. Then there is another week around Christmas. And another in the spring.

"It gives you a chance to recharge your batteries," he said with a smile. Engren is no exception. According to a recent EU study, carried out by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, he is the rule. Swedish workers topped the European vacation rankings, entitled to an average of 33 paid vacations days in 2006 - close to 7 weeks, not counting public holidays.

Europe has long been the world leader in officially sanctioned time off, so Sweden's top ranking in the Continent likely means it has the most generous vacation entitlements in the world.

But the question is how long this laid-back state of affairs can last. Change is on the horizon, driven, it seems, by the invisible hand of globalization.

"The Swedish vacation is being adapted to the international situation," said Orvar Lofgren, a professor of anthropology at Lund University and author of the book "On Holiday: A History of Vacationing."

"The classic five-week vacation is not as holy as it used to be," Lofgren said. So far the change is subtle, and relates more to how Swedes plan their vacations than how long they stay out of the office. The tradition here has been for all Swedes to take their vacation at the same time, beginning in early July. As Lofgren explains, up until the 1990s, the first day of vacations was a national news event, with TV teams waiting outside the gates of big industries, asking how the workers were planning to spend their treasured weeks off. But in the past few years, the neutron-bomb effect that has usually struck the country as the vacation period set in - deserted streets, closed shops and abandoned phones ringing in empty offices - has been decidedly less pronounced.

This is because more and more Swedes begin their vacations later in the summer, to put them in sync with much of the rest of the industrialized world, where vacations are usually taken in August.

(Continued on page 2)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carl Larson
6 David Benson
12 Erica Leaman
15 Larry Hultquist
Lars Ostlund
17 Elizabeth Dahlberg-
Bushnell
26 Birgitta Ostlund
29 Gail Nemy
Susan Westaby



"Whilst August yet wears
her golden crown,
Ripening fields lush-
bright with promise;
Summer waxes long, then
waned, quietly passing
Her fading green glory
on to riotous Autumn."
- Michelle L. Thieme, *August's Crown*

"When on a summer's
morn I wake,
And open my two eyes,
Out to the clear, born-
singing rills
My bird-like spirit flies.

To hear the Blackbird,
Cuckoo, Thrush,
Or any bird in song;
And common leaves that
hum all day
Without a throat or
tongue.

And when Time strikes the
hour for sleep,
Back in my room alone,
My heart has many a sweet
bird's song --
And one that's all my
own."
- William Henry Davies,
When on a Summer's Morn

(Continued from page 1)

"By mid-August, this place was usually deserted," Lofgren said, referring to Reso, an island to the north of Goteborg where he has his summer house and from where he was speaking by telephone. "Now people are actually still around."

The change is much welcomed by employers, who, to an increasing extent, compete in a global business environment.

"With a modern, just-in-time production system, you can't just close a factory for a month," said Karl Olof Stenqvist, deputy director-general of the Association of Swedish Engineering Industries. "In this area, there has been a big shift in Sweden."

But voices are now growing louder, saying that these changes do not go far enough. The EU study showed that, compared with the Swedes' entitlement of 33 days of paid vacation in 2006, Germans had 30, Italians had 28 and Estonians, who ranked last, had 20.

(These numbers include the statutory minimum paid leave, as well as days added by collective bargaining agreements, but not public holidays. Not all EU countries are included in the study, since the way of gathering data relating to vacations is different in a way that makes comparisons difficult.)

Even more strikingly, Americans had, on average, only nine days of paid vacation in 2006, according to a recent report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington. That discrepancy is, in large measure, because the United States has no statutory minimum of paid vacation days.

In the face of this kind of global competition, some are now saying that Swedes must seriously consider giving up some of their cherished summer days off.

"When people realize the effect that not working has on their pensions, on health care and on consumption - especially compared with other countries - I have no doubt they will work more," said Dick Kling, an economist with the free-market-oriented Timbro institute. "We will see longer working weeks and shorter vacations."

But Engren, the tax inspector, had his doubts. He thinks the tradition to take long vacations is too ingrained to be changed easily. Rather, he said, the rest of the world should use Sweden as an example to follow, and relax a little.

"After all," he said, "most people feel better when they get time off."

HELP YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND HIS ABLE ASSISTANT CAROL, by sharing your vacation time experiences, especially your visits to your ancestral homeland(s). We all enjoy hearing from Kurt and Eivor about their annual visit to their home in Sweden and the experiences of that time are a major part as Eivor shares Sweden with us throughout the year in the cultural presentations.

A lodge, a group, a choir, a battalion!, a committee all become a family of sorts and we all need to know one another better, so please consider sharing a bit about your vacations, past, present and your plans for the future. Please be the first and I promise to be second and tell you a bit about our last visit to Sweden. "I have never been to Sweden," you say? Well, then vacationing in the United States can be very interesting to hear about also.

The August newsletter sort of begins a "fiscal" rebirth of the lodge as we come out of hibernation (yeah, right! How about the sillfrukost and the outing at Camp Norge?!), so please be a newsletter contributor at least once in the next few months. *ed.*

NÅL OCH TRÅD

Nål och Tråd will not meet in August. The ladies do remind you that craft items are needed for the upcoming festival in September. They also invite all ladies of the lodge to their monthly meetings, a time of fellowship and craft making. Our lodge benefits from the efforts throughout the year of the group Nål och Tråd. Members of the group are: Dorothy Mogford, Linda Larson, Dorothy Scherer, Myrtle Widmark, Thelma Gorrell, Jewel Wright, Ethel Johnson.

KÖKSNYHETER

NEEDED: Stainless steel flatware, especially knives, forks and spoons. We are attempting to become a bit more "green" by eliminating the use of those easily breakable and not in the least biodegradable plastic *things!* We have access to a dishwasher at the hall and this is a good way to begin the greening! Please call LaVern Griffith at 334-9046 if you are willing to clean out old flatware at your place. Describe to her what you have and she will make a decision as to whether or not it is something we can use. If this sounds strange to you, just take a look at our VERY SMALL storage room! LaVern has found a source for biodegradable coffee cups! Great. Some of you experienced their use at a recent gathering and made no negative comments. LaVern also tries to keep the storage room "arranged" and if you don't know where something goes, please ask her.

THE SILLFRUKOST WAS ENJOYED BY 40 PLUS MEMBERS WHO ENJOYED THE FULL FILLETS OF HERRING WITH JUST A HINT OF SALTINESS! THANKS FOR ALL YOUR THANK YOUS. *Jack & Linda*

Everywhere you go in Sweden, people "hej" at you. If you don't know that "hej" means "hello" in Swedish, you might be slightly confused as to why everybody is trying to get your attention. Because that's what we use "hey" for in English, among many other things, right?

"Hej!" in Swedish doesn't have any of the negative English "hey!" connotations. Instead, it's a multi-purpose greeting used by practically everyone in the country. It sounds awfully familiar, doesn't it? Like the kind of word you'd only say to those with whom you have a personal relationship. Yet in Sweden that word managed to cross from being just an interjection in casual speech to a national greeting.

And how did that happen?

The urban legend goes that in the late 1960s many foreign tourists complained that Swedes lacked proper etiquette when it came to greetings and social interactions. And because of that, the country was perceived as less than polite. The national Tourist Board overlords decided to quickly rectify this situation and instructed all hospitality workers to show off their good manners by greeting all and any customers. And a helpful linguistic genius came up with the

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NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE FOR
THE SEPTEMBER-
ISSUE IS 08/12/08

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE NL VIA E-MAIL AND IN COLOR, YOU MUST DOWNLOAD ADOBE ACROBAT READER www.adobe.com.

SWEDISH PROVERBS

No one has so big a house that he does not need a good neighbor.

He is a friend to none who is a friend to all.

A peacock has too little in its head and too much in its tail.

Guests should not forget to go home

He who has nothing but virtues is not better than he who has nothing but faults.

He who buys what he doesn't need steals from himself.

Wisdom is in the head and not in the beard.

Vasa Order of America
A Swedish-American
Fraternal Organization
Since 1876

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Monitor Lodge #218
Business Meeting, May 2, 2008

Minutes

Officers Present

Chair	Kurt Pfannkuch
Secretary	Charley Rea
Financial Secretary	Yvonne Magneheim
Asst. Fin. Secty	Lillian Stafford
Treasurer	Karin Johnson
Cultural Committee	Thelma Gorrell, Eivor Pfannkuch, Jewel Wright
Chaplain	Dorothy Scherer
Past Chairman	Dale Ingvarlsen
Historian	Brian Stockham

Call to Order. Chairman Kurt Pfannkuch called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. A quorum was present. The Chaplain led the prayer and the national pledges were recited. Several visitors were introduced from Sierra Kronan Lodge, and Scott and Kathryn Matthews, the District Chaplain and Vice District Master respectively.

Minutes. The minutes of the April 17 meeting were approved.

Announcements. Dale Ingvarlsen will be the incoming District Membership Chair, Elizabeth Swenson will be the incoming District Assistant Secretary, and Karin Johnson will be the District Auditor.

Members were reminded that Sweden Day will be May 30 – June 1 in Alta. Assistance is needed with food on Friday evening and pancakes on Sunday morning.

It was noted that Monitor Lodge has four Past District Masters (PDM) and Kurt Pfannkuch is a distant relative of Olaf III.

Membership. Three new members were proposed and approved: Gabriella Lundquist, Elizabeth Havener (not present), and Jo Alice Nastal. They were approved unanimously on a motion by Violet De Bord and Yvonne Magneheim.

Scholarship. A \$500 scholarship was approved for Elizabeth Jones, who plans to attend UC Irvine. It was approved unanimously on a motion by Carol Churkin and Violet De Bord.

Convention Report. District Convention delegates LaVerne Griffith and Violet De Bord reported the 2008 convention was very good. The convention defeated a resolution to hold the convention every other year instead of every year. It passed a resolution to make the membership chair part of

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the Executive Committee.

Smorgasborg Meeting. The meeting will be May 23 at the Ostlund's beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Old Business. The fate of the old bar has yet to be determined.

Correspondence. The lodge is in receipt of new marching music.

Dinner Planning. Team #4 and #3 have switched months.

New Business. The Kingsburg Swedish Festival will be May 15 – 17.

Bills. There were no bills to announce or approve.

Good of the Order. A hearty welcome was given to our new members.

Financial Report. A brief up-date was provided.

Next Meeting. Friday, June 6.

Adjourn. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Charley Rea

(Continued from page 3)

idea of promoting the use of "**hej**". It made perfect sense, "**hej**" is a simple word, sounds almost the same in any language and anybody can pronounce it correctly. In no time it became the standard greeting in the tourist industry. And from there, it migrated to other walks of life. That's the story was told to me by an official from the Stockholm Tourist Office.

Is there any truth in this legend? A little. Among certain groups of people, "**hej!**" had been used as a greeting since the mid 1800s. Then around 1870s, when the students in **Uppsala** got the wind of it, the word became more and more popular. In the beginning of course, it was a greeting only used with people one was familiar with. You wouldn't go all "**hej!**" on perfect strangers. For those occasions, Swedish had (and still has) more refined ways of saying "hello".

Then came the radical 1970s. Sweden had just gone through a massive overhaul of its national language, the process known as "**du-reformen**". Suddenly, it became OK to use the pronoun "**du**" (second person, singular) when talking to total strangers. Egalitarianism at its finest! "**Hej!**" quickly followed suit and became the greeting of choice for the masses.

Today, in addition to "**hej!**", you may also hear these two variants:

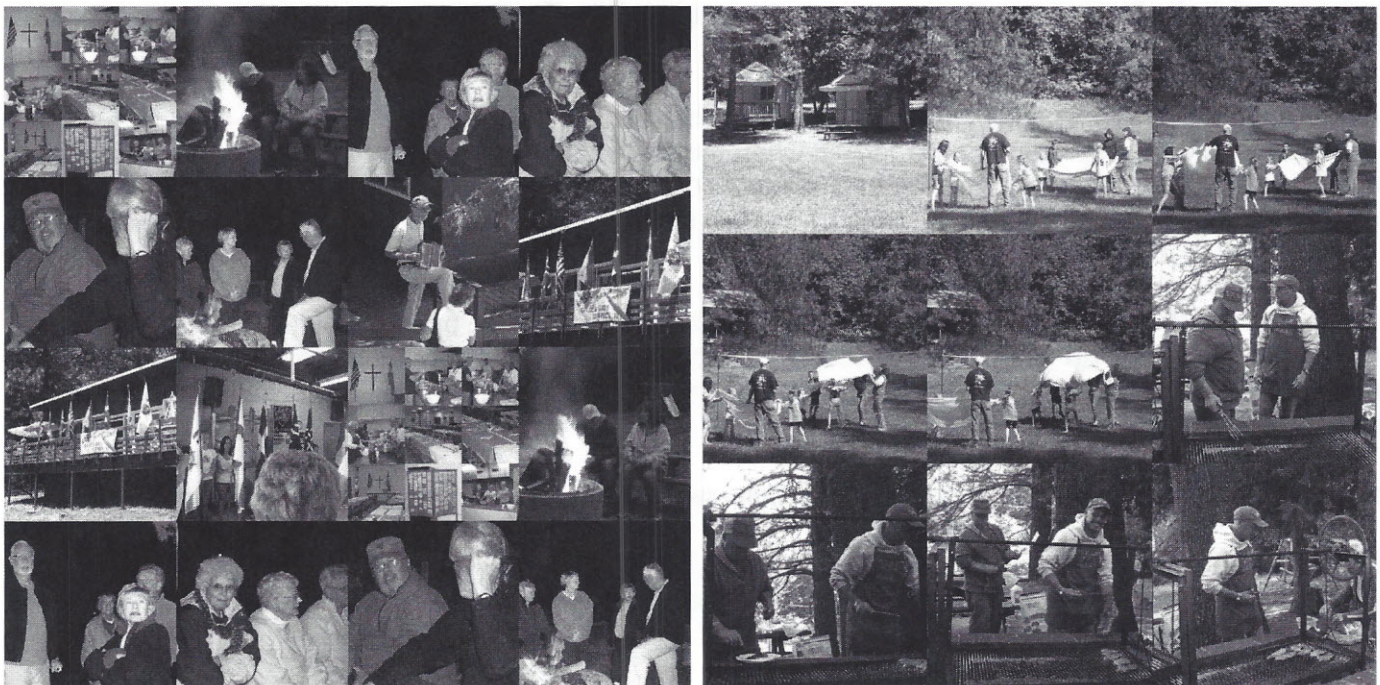
Hej hej! = when said twice it implies friendliness and excitement to see you.

Hejsan! = this would be the "polite" version of "**hej!**" that you say when you want to be just a little bit more "official" and "proper."

Thanks to some creative thinking and a bit of juggling of teams, the Finnish Dinner in June was a roaring success. We were almost at capacity. The food was wonderful and the camaraderie among team members was impressive. Our next dinner meeting isn't until October when we begin again with Team 1 doing the Danish Dinner.



I have many more pictures of both of these events, too many to include here, so I am setting up a Blog that you can access to see all of them. More information on that later. The blog will be a place where you can share your experience of Camp Norge, for instance, and maybe encourage more people to attend in the future. How's that for a sneaky way to get stuff for the NL? *ed.*



Chairman's Message
July 2008

I hope you all are enjoying the summer as much as Eivor and I are. We just got back from a month in Sweden where we celebrated Midsommar and spent a lot of time with our youngest daughter and three of our grandchildren. We are home for about three weeks, but will spend half of that in the Dallas area while Eivor attends the annual convention for Mary Kay and we also get to visit with our other daughter and grandson. Then it's back to Sweden until October.

Unfortunately, that means we will miss the crayfish party and the September meeting. Please support the lodge both by your attendance and by helping the committees and officers in working to make these events successful. This will be the first major event hosted by James and Melissa and they really need your help. As new members, they have never even been to a crayfish party, let alone host one. Call them, get involved, do whatever it takes to help them to make it a success. Put yourself in their place and you will realize how important your support is to them. Most of all, attend and enjoy.

When Ed and the nominating committee come calling, don't shy away. Step up and take a part in the lodge management. Everyone has skills in some area, whether it be in leading, financial, cooking, writing, or whatever. Working together with other lodge members is fun and helps the lodge grow strong through mutual friendships and efforts.

It's a win – win situation. Take advantage of it.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in October.

The Pfannkuchs Celebrate Midsommar in Sweden (More pictures on my Blog)



MONITOR LODGE #218
Minutes of 7 June 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kurt Pfannkuch, after the dinner.

A silent roll call of officers was taken as follows:

Chairman Kurt Pfannkuch – present; Vice-Chairman Johanna Benker – present; Secretary Charles Rea – absent; Asst. Secretary Karen Sandberg – absent; Financial Secretary Yvonne Magneheim – absent; Asst. Financial Secretary Lillian Stafford – present; Treasurer Karin Johnson – present.

Chairman Pfannkuch asked for a motion to accept the May minutes as published in the newsletter. After a name correction from Jones to Johnson, a motion was passed to accept the corrected minutes, E. Netzel/M. Ingvarlsen

Committee Reports –

Sill Frukost will be held on June 28th at the Larson residence in Pioneer. Tom Anderson will play the keyboard and there will be room for dancing. Contact Jack Larson for further information.

The first planning meeting for the annual Smorgasbord was held at the Ostlund home. Lots of help will be needed. More information will be coming at meetings and in future newsletters.

James Netzel has volunteered his Loomis home for the Crayfish Party in August. Information to follow.

Membership Committee chair Dale Ingvarlsen noted that we are off to a good start this year with 3 new members and 4 more prospective members. Dale is working on a plan on getting and retaining new members. This includes rapid assimilation into the lodge activities and sponsor follow up for at least 6 months.

Sweden Day – Ed Netzel reported that it was a great success with 10 RVs, 3 tent campers, and several people who rented rooms. Over 60 people attended the Saturday events and more than half stayed on for Sunday. The 50/50 raffle netted \$370 and the basket raffle brought in \$295. A great time was had by all attendees.

Sunshine – Dorothy Scherer and Yvonne Magneheim were both home with illnesses, Wanda Neswich has been moved to a rest home and is in a wheelchair, Arlie Vies was in the hospital 4 days for tests, June person had knee surgery, and Eva Allred has serious health problems. On the positive side, George and Ann Kantar just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Mark and Marty Gehrig were welcomed back.

Scholarship – After introductory comments from Eivor, Dede Dahlberg presented our scholarship

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out to our members.

Newsletter – Deadline for next issue is July 12th.

Financial Reports – Bills presented were Newsletter - \$80.31; May dinner – 127.20; printing – 49.56; and cheese platter for June meal – 63.96. Motion to pay the bills passed. DeBord/Broess

Good of the Order – In recognition of father's day, Eivor presented a gift to George Kantar for being the oldest dad present at age 93.

After the meeting was adjourned, Eivor Pfannkuch, Birgitta Ostlund, and Jill Stockham led the group in a sing-a-long with the piano accompaniment of Marrienne Ek.

Respectfully submitted,

Marrienne Ek
Secretary Pro-tem

DEATH NOTICE

Suddenly and while vacationing in Europe, Roy Myers, who regaled us with his musical talents at the last Anniversary Dinner and at Alta in June. Roy Myer's service is 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 22nd, at East Lawn - 4300 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento.



Following the current trend of turning hit musicals into movies (Rent, Hairspray, Sweeney Todd, etc.), comes perhaps the most confusing adaptation to date: Mamma Mia! It's set in Greece, has an Italian title, a predominantly British and American cast and is based on songs written by Swedes. Obviously.

Whilst it sounds like a recipe for disaster the film somehow manages to work, on most levels at least.

Amanda Seyfield plays Sophie, a young bride-to-be who has a sudden, inexplicable urge to find out who her father is. By inviting all three possible

candidates (played by actors Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgård, respectively) to her wedding on the sun-drenched Greek island where she lives with her hotel-owner mother Donna (Meryl Streep), she figures she'll be able to ascertain who of the three should be walking her down the aisle. This proves more difficult than she expects, however, as even her mother isn't sure who the father is.

As weak as it may sound, that is essentially the movie's entire plot, but luckily there are enough distractions to keep us from dwelling on the lack of story - namely the abundance of catchy *Abba* songs throughout the movie, the impossibly idyllic Greek island setting and some very tongue-in-cheek performances from the film's stellar cast.

In fact one of the main reasons why the film is a success is due to the near-perfect casting by Priscilla John. Meryl Streep proves once again that she can pretty much turn her hand to anything; Pierce Brosnan delivers a likeable and distinctly *unBond-like* performance as Sam; Colin Firth is fittingly inept as Harry; Sweden's own Stellan Skarsgård takes an enjoyable comedic turn as Bill; and Julie Walters impresses as Donna's friend Rosie, with her now all-too-familiar rendition of a feisty middle-aged woman.

The only weak link is Amanda Seyfield, whose annoying teen-like performance just seems to serve as a constant reminder that this is in fact a Hollywood film. I'm not sure if it's even possible to over-act in a musical, but she definitely tries her hardest.

Perhaps the real star of the film is its soundtrack - Benny and Björn's songs still sound fresh today and their tireless energy is impossible to ignore, even when sung by actors.

It's refreshingly obvious from the performances that everyone thoroughly enjoyed making *Mamma Mia!* and that they clearly haven't taken any of it too seriously, so if you approach the film with a similar attitude then you're likely to leave with a smile on your face - and half a dozen *Abba* songs in your head.

Monitor Lodge #218

CHECK REQUEST

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Description:

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REQUESTOR'S SIGNATURE

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NOTE: Receipts MUST be attached to request for payment.

Submit check request at business meeting or mail to Monitor Secretary:
Charles Rea, 2220 Homewood Way, Carmichael CA 95608

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