Vasa Order of America-A Swedish-American

February 2011

MONITOR LODGE NO. 218 CHARTERED APRIL 8, 1912

THE



MONITOR

James Netzel, Chairman—Jack Larson, Vice Chairman—Arlene White, Secretary—Charley Rea, Assistant Recording Secretary, Yvonne Magneheim, Financial Secretary—Kurt Pfannkuch, Assistant Financial Secretary—Karin Johnson, Treasurer

UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY

2/4/11

7:00

Kaffekalas

Cultural Program

Convention Issues

Convention

(District Meeting)

2/26/11

8:00

Northern Lights Concert

Memorial Auditorium

Featuring David McCarroll

www.davidmccarroll.com/

(Ask DeeDee for more information)

3/4/11

5:30

Peasoup/Pancake Supper

Cultural Program

Dinner Team 2

Pictures on Page 11 Taken by Johanna Benker Snowshoe Thompson: "Viking of the Sierra"



When John A. Thompson responded to an ad in the Sacramento Union : "People Lost to the World; Uncle Sam Needs a Mail Carrier", he had no idea he was to become a living legend.

When I cross-country ski under the moonlight through the back country of the Sierra Nevada mountains, I often think of Snowshoe Thompson, one of the most intriguing heroes in California's history. From 1856 to 1876 he made legendary 90 mile treks over snowdrifts up to 50 feet high and through blizzards with up to

80 mile per hour winds, to deliver mail to those living in isolation. He was the sole link between California and the Atlantic states during the long winter months.

At the age of 10, Jon Torsteinson-Rue (later changed to John A. Thompson) came to America with his family from Norway, settling on a farm in Illinois. The family moved on to Missouri then lowa, and eventually Jon went to stay with his brother in Wisconsin. Then gold fever struck.

In 1851 at the age of 24 Thompson drove a herd of milk cows to California and settled in Placerville. For a short while he mined in Kelsey Diggins, Coon Hollow and Georgetown. With the small amount he saved, he bought a small ranch at Putah Creek, in the Sacramento Valley.

All attempts by postmen to cross the Sierra on woven Canadian and Native American snowshoes had failed until one day in late 1855, Thompson saw an ad in the Sacramento Union : "People Lost to the World; Uncle Sam Needs a Mail Carrier." He had had personal experience with mail



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

deprivation, having once received long delayed news of a flu epidemic which claimed his mother's life, and quickly applied for the job.

As a young child in the Telemark region of Norway, ski shaped snow-shoes (called ski-skates) were as common as ordinary shoes. A crowd formed in Placerville for his first mail run in January, 1856. Few had faith that he would make it over the 7,500 foot passes on his homemade 10 foot long, 25 pound oak skis. But one optimistic voice in the crowd called out: "Good luck, Snowshoe Thompson" and he set out to become a legendary postman and father of California skiing.

Two to four times a month for twenty winters, regardless of weather, Snowshoe Thompson set out at the appointed hour. His mail run took 3 days from Placerville to Mormon Station, Utah (Nevada's first town,later called Genoa when Nevada became a state), and two days on the return trip. The people of the pioneer settlement knew when to expect his arrival. Baking was left in the oven and abandoned meals grew cold. Everyone ran outdoors looking up to the top of Genoa Peak to watch as the tall blond norseman descended, streaks of snow flying in his wake.

Thompson always wore a Mackinaw jacket, a wide rimmed hat, and covered his face in charcoal to prevent snow blindness. He carried no blankets, but he did carry matches to start fires, and his bible. He snacked on dried sausage, jerked beef, crackers, and biscuits. When a storm kept him from proceeding he would find a flat rock, clear it of snow, and dance old Norwegian folk dances until it passed, then he would continue on his way. He rested but briefly, and usually only long enough for a crust to form back over the fresh snow, for easier passage.

Dan de Quille of the Virigina City Territorial Enterprise later wrote of Thompson: "He flew down the mountainside. He did not ride astride his pole or drag it to one side as was the practice of other snow-shoers, but held it horizontally before him after the manner of a tightrope walker. His appearance was graceful, swaying his balance pole to one side and the other in the manner that a soaring



eagle dips its wings."

Grizzly bears, mountain lions and wolves roamed his path, but he carried no gun, not wanting to limit the weight of mail and much needed supplies. On one trip he came upon a pack of wolves feeding on a deer carcass. When they noticed him, they sat on their haunches and howled. Snowshoe kept his pace, expecting them to attack at any moment, and flew right by them. When he looked back, they had returned to their meal.

Much as his Viking ancestors had traveled upon unmarked waters, Snowshoe Thompson crossed the Sierra Mountains, whose landmarks were buried in the snow. He didn't use a compass, once stating in an interview : "There is no danger of getting lost in a narrow range of mountains like the Sierra, if a man has his wits about him." He could tell his direction by day, from the appearance of trees and rocks, the flow of the streams, animal tracks, and snowdrifts. By night, the formation of stars guided him.

Snowshoe Thompson often rescued prospectors caught in the snow, and would carry them out on the back of his skis as they held their arms around him. One well-known incident took place just before Christmas in 1856, when he found a trapper named James Sisson, who had been sheltering with half-frozen feet in a deserted cabin for 12 days, with no food or fire. Thompson chopped him some wood to stay warm and set out to Genoa for help. He had to carve skis and give lessons to the rescuers who had agreed to accompany him. Once back in Genoa, the doctor reported that Sisson's feet needed to be amputated, but he had no chloroform. Thompson set out once again to Placerville, but there was none to be found, so he continued on to Sacramento. In all he traveled 400 miles in 10 days, and saved Sisson's life.

His mail sack often weighed up to 100 pounds: carrying medicine, emergency supplies, clothing, books, tools, pots and pans. Once he brought in a pack of needles and a glass chimney for a kerosene lamp so a widow, Mrs. Franklin, could continue her winter sewing. For the local fiddler, Richard Cosser, he brought new strings. And for the news starved miners, he carried the type and newsprint for Nevada's first newspaper, the Territorial Enterprise, piece by piece. The first issue went to press December 18, 1858.

In 1859 Thompson was asked to take a strange blue rock, which seemed to be devaluing the Washoe miners' gold dust, to Sacramento to have it assayed - it was rich in silver. The Comstock Lode had now been discovered, signaling an end to the California Gold Rush and the glorious 49er era. A new stampede began, this time from west to east and Thompson was asked to expand his mail route to Virginia City, year round.

As legends of Snowshoe Thompson's feats spread through the isolated regions of the Sierra, others began making skis and racing down the hills. For a short time, during the building of the Central Pacific Railroad, he carried the mail from Cisco to Meadow Lake. During the winter of 1867-68, one of the most severe in history, 3,000 people were met with an unexpected storm and ended up wintering in at Meadow Lake City. Clarence M. Wooster wrote in a letter that Thompson would "sail down his four-mile course at great speed, cross the ice frozen river, throw our mail toward the house, and glide out of sight, up and over a hill, by the momentum gathered in the three mile descent."

Happy New Year/Gott Nytt År!!

It was so nice to see everyone at the meeting last Friday. It certainly is exciting to see new members join and to receive transfers from other lodges. I was also encouraged by the number of members who have stepped up the take a position in our organization. Our success is only as good as the members involved and boy do we have wealth of knowledge amongst our membership.



As I reflect on 2010 it is hard not to be reminded of all the members who have passed on in 2010, I am beginning to receive donations for our Scholarship Fund as a remembrance our past members. What a lovely tribute! We use the donations to help our younger generations learn more about their heritage and to further their education. I know our members and their families would be proud to know they are helping younger generations to achieve their goals.

No donation is too small. Each dollar adds up and will be well spent by the recipients. I would be happy to accept any donations, at any time.

In Truth and Unity,

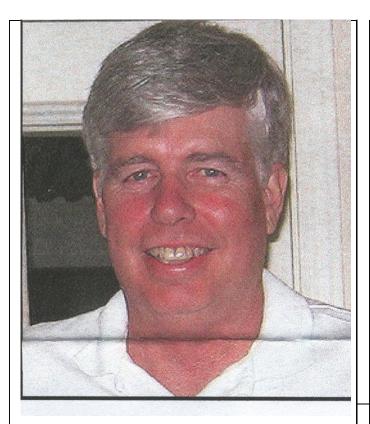
Yvonne

Government surveyors came to Ole's Minnesota farm last spring and asked if they could do some surveying. Ole agreed, and Lena even served them a nice meal at noontime. After their work was done, the surveyors told Ole, "You were so kind to us, we wanted to give you the bad news in person, instead of by letter."

"What's the bad news?", asked Ole.

"Well, your farm is right on the state line," the surveyors said, "and after our work was completed, we discovered your farm is not in Minnesota. It's actually in Iowa."

"That's the best news I've had in a long time," said Ole. "I was just telling Lena this morning that I don't think I can take another winter in Minnesoga!"



I MINNE AV JOHN E. WRIGHT

John Edward Wright, 68, passed peacefully on December 10, 2010 in Sacramento, California. He was born in Elmhurst, Illinois on May 18, 1942. He was the first born son of Elsie and Fredrick Wright. He spent his youth in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, moving to Yucaipa, California in 1960 with family. He studied at San Bernardino Valley College, spending spart time working at Riverside Raceway on their emergency crew and cycling with his brother in the Riverside Bicycle Club. Having married, he moved to Sacramento to raise a family and work as a bank operations officer. He became the office manager for Grenz Construction and remarried to his current wife, Jewel. He enjoyed traveling in California and spending time boating on Folsom Lake. After surviving kidney cancer he was forced to retire and he began to pursue cycling again; his story was featured in a Sacramento Bee article about his remarkable recov-

ery and the thousands of miles he'd ridden. In retirement, he was active with the local Swedish Monitor Lodge and loved making pancakes at the Saturday morning fundraisers. He became president of the Suncountry Homeowners Association and worked tirelessly with the local neighborhood watch, Stockton Blvd. Partnership and the Sheriff's Department to improve the community in his area. He was honored twice, in 2006 and 2007, with the South County Community Service Award from the Department of Neighborhood Services for these efforts. He is survived by his wife Jewel, brother Jim, son Michael, daughters Janel and Katie, grandchild Lucy Elizabeth, stepchildren Barbara and Art, extended family and his many friends.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2.....Martha Parks 2/4....Stanley Hagstrom 2/5....Lisa Rea 2/6....Charles Johnson 2/9....Kenneth Swenson Ethel Johnson Mindy Patterson 2/12....Wesley Bjur 2/13....Jill Stockham 2/15....Margaret Ingvardsen 2/18....Richard Westrup 2/19....Kurt Pfannkuch 2/22....Marie Tilman

DINNER TEAMS 2011

Team 1

Jack & Linda Larson (Team Leaders) Dale & Margaret Ingvardsen Arlene White Siw Gormley Thelma Gorrell Tom & Annika Anderson Craig & Marilyn Johnson Charley & Lisa Rea Kurt & Eivor Pfannkuch

Team 2

Ken & Peggy Carlson (Team Leaders) Elizabeth Swenson Lillian Stafford Larry Hultquist Myrtle Widmark Adam Johnson Deidre Dahlberg Karin Johnson Gail Nemy Rose-Marie Westrup Mike & Carol Churkin

Team 3

Ed & Judy Netzel (Team Leaders) Scott & Kathy Matthews Dorothy Scherer Dick & Gloria Eriksson Brian & Jill Stockham James & Melissa Netzel Troy & Diana Nimmo Lars & Birgitta Östlund

Please note the Dinner Teams have been reconfigured, which was necessary to help the teams be able to work more efficiently with more people to share the load on each team. Currently, the teams are responsible for planning the dinner, decorating the tables, preparing the food and cleaning up. With the change, perhaps the work can be more evenly divided. Of course, you could join a team and share in the joy of cooking!!!!!

RECENT MEMBER COMMENTS!

The smorgsbord was superlative in every way! Many thanks and praise for everyone who worked on it. Myrtle and I thank everyone who contributed to the dessert table. There was a wealth of really delicious items. If you have room, perhaps you could put the recipe for the rice pudding used by Dick Ericsson, and the almond cake by Gale Nemy. Happy holidays! Dorothy

ed's note: Gail's recipe appeared last month. So far I have not heard back for Dick and/or Gloria

Watch out Martha Stewart—someone new is catching up. Really nice, Birgitta.....Russ Ellis (a non-Swedish person)

I add my accolade to Russ' comment. I think we have a rising ambassador for Swedish Culture! Jack L.

ed's note: Birgitta Ostlund starred on local Sacramento TV in December.

In a recent conversation with Eivor, I mentioned what a never ending job LaVern Griffith performs keeping our storage room in shape. Not only is she "on guard" before, during and after meetings, but she sneaks in to do extra work in between meetings. Members (including myself) need to remember to cooperate with her "direction."

Jack L.



"The patronizing posture the Swedes adopt vis-à-vis their Scandinavian neighbors stems not from dislike, but simply from the confident belief that Sweden is superior."

Monitor Lodge #218

Nov. 5, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order. Chair Ed Netzel called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Quorum. The secretary called the roll of officers and announced a quorum present.

Chair Ed Netzel Vice Chair James Netzel Secretary Charley Rea Asst. Rec. Secretary absent Financial Secretary Yvonne Magneheim Assistant Financial Secretary Kurt Pfannkuch Treasurer Karin Johnson Cultural Committee Jack Larson Chaplain Jack Larson

Minutes. The minutes of the Oct. 1 meeting were approved (motion by Y. Magneheim/E. Swenson)

Actions.

- New Members: 3 new member applications were reviewed and approved: Anita Nord, and Neil & Sandra Johnson (motion by Melissa Netzel/Y. Magneheim).
- 2010 Monitor Lodge Smorgasbord. Reviewed the preparations, reservations, and Lucia program.
- Web Site. The Lodge approved work to further the website (\$650 to complete, and \$350 per year (motion by J. Larson/E. Swenson).
- Donation. The Lodge approved \$125 for the Sacramento Food Bank, as well as encouraging members to bring canned food (motion by Y. Mannerheim/Craig Johnson, as modified by J. Larson/Craig Johnson).
- Sweden Day. There will be a meeting Jan. 29 to plan for Sweden Day. To learn more about Sweden Day planning, contact Elisabeth Swenson.
- Bills. The bills for on-going activities, including newsletter, dinner, sill kru frost, and rent were approved (motion by Birgitta Ellis/Y. Magneheim).
- Financial Report. Income and expenses from the crayfish party and sill kru frost were reviewed. It was noted only about 50% of membership dues are current.

Good of the Order.

- Bernice Hopkins has respectfully withdrawn from the cultural committee.
- Advertisers are needed for the Sounds of Sweden radio program that the Lodge is doing every Saturday evening at 5 p.m. on KJAY. Contact Jack Larson.

Next Meeting. Smorgasbord, Dec. 3, at IOFF Hall. Reservations required.

Adjourn. Chair Ed Netzel adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Charley Rea, Secretary.

Monitor Lodge #218

Jan. 7, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order. Chair Ed Netzel called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Quorum. The secretary noted the officers present and the presence of a quorum.

Chair Ed Netzel Vice Chair James Netzel Secretary Charley Rea Asst. Rec. Secretary Jo Alice Nastal Financial Secretary Yvonne Magneheim Assistant Financial Secretary Kurt Pfannkuch Treasurer Absent Cultural Committee Jack Larson Chaplain Jack Larson

Actions & Activities.

- New Members: Approved membership for 5 new members: Theresa Albers, Neil & Sandra Johnson, and Donald and Jocelyn Johnson (Donald and Jocelyn are transfers from the Golden Nugget Lodge and former members of Monitor Lodge; in fact, Donald is a past chair).
- New Officers. An inauguration ceremony was conducted for the 2011 Officers.

Chair James Netzel Vice Chair Jack Larson Secretary Arlene White Asst. Recording Secretary Charley Rea Financial Secretary Yvonne Magneheim Asst. Financial Secretary Kurt Pfannkuch Treasurer Karin Johnson Cultural Committee Vacant Melissa Netzel Mvrtle Widmark (Eivor Pfannkuch will serve as an advisor) Chaplain Birgitta Ellis Master of Ceremonies Peggy Carlson Asst. Master of Ceremonies Jo Alice Nastal Inner Guard Troy Nimmo Outer Guard Judy Netzel Historian Brian Stockham **Trustees LaVerne Griffith** (joins Marianne Ek and Margaret Ingvardsen) Auditors Craig Johnson (joins Gail Nemy and Erica Leaman)

• After the inauguration ceremony, James Netzel chaired the remainder of the meeting. As one of his first acts, he asked that all speakers at meetings stand and state their name when making announcements. It helps everyone get to know each other better.

• James also reminded everyone that a blue ribbon on a badge means a member is new, and we should be sure to greet and welcome them.

• 2012 Convention. There will be a meeting on Jan. 21 at The DoubleTree to prepare for Monitor Lodge hosting the 2012 convention, which coincides with the Lodge's 100th anniversary.

• Audit Meeting. Jan. 19 there will be a meeting of the audit committee at James Netzel's house. This meeting closes the books on 2010.

• Sounds of Sweden. Jack Larson had several announcements regarding the radio program the Lodge puts on every Saturday at 5 p.m. on KJAY:

1) Programs will be on the Internet at www.kjay1430.com;

2) Advertisers and/or financial donors are needed! Several members are supporting privately now, so it would be great to get advertisers. The ads are \$150/minute;

3) More broadcasters are needed. There are currently 3 rotating teams, but they would love to have help! If you are interested but hesitant, Jack welcomes you to come site and watch a broadcast one evening;

4) Music is needed. If you have CDs of Swedish music or by music musicians, the broadcast teams could use some new material.

- History of Lodge. Lennart Anderson encouraged members to forward Lodge history they may be aware of to Arlie Vies, who is writing a history of the Lodge.
- John Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund. John recently passed away and, in his name, the Lodge has established a memorial scholarship fund. If you would like to contribute, contact Yvonne Magneheim.
- Dues. If you forgot to pay your dues in 2010, it is not too late to make-up.

Next Meeting. Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at IOOF Hall. It will be a Kaffekalas.

Adjourn. Chair James Netzel adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Charley Rea, Secretary

		Fina	ancial Report	
		Friday,	October 1, 2010	
35	Aduts		\$8.00	\$280.00
2	Children		\$-	
4		Guests	\$8.00	\$32.00
Annual Mer	mbership Due	s		
Theresa A. Alberst	\$30.00		April 10-Apri 11	\$30.00
			Grand Total	\$342.00
	12	\$1.00		\$12.00
	16	\$5.00		\$80.00
	3	\$10.00		\$30.00
	15	\$20.00		\$300.00
	1		Check #4821/Ingvardsen	\$16.00
	1		Check\$4480/Scherer	\$8.00
	1		Check#4822/Ingvardsen	\$8.00
	1	\$30.00	Check#1110/Theresa Alberts	\$30.00

Financial Report							
Friday, Novemer 5, 2010							
Kaffe Kallas							
Nål och Tråd			\$185.00				
Annual Membership Dues							
Boyer, Karna	#1071	2010	\$25.00				
Churkin, Carol & Mike	Check #8657		\$60.00				
Gormley, Siwi	Check #1556	2010	\$30.00				
Johnson, Elizabeth	Check#6844	2010 and 2011	\$60.00				
Johnson, Robin, Linda, Elizabeth	Check #311	2010 and 2011	\$180.00				
Magneheim, Yvonne	Cash	2010	\$30.00				
Matthew,Scott & Kathryn	Chek#2699	2010	\$60.00				
Royer, Kristina andTodd	Check #5173	2010	\$60.00				
Westrup, Richard	Check #8657	2010 - Paid by Deidre Dahlberg	\$60.00				
Westrup, Rose Marie	1	2010 - Paid by Deidre Dahlberg	000.00				
		Loro Tuli of Denite Duniberg	\$565.00				
JulBord 2010			0.000,00				
Anderson, Thomas & Annika	#1035		\$50.00				
Andersson, Lennart & Britt-Marie	#2440		\$50.00				
Benker, Johanna	#2205		\$25.00				
Carlson, Kenneth& Peggy	#142		\$50.00				
Center, Louise	#5713		\$25.00				
Churkin, Michael & Carol & Lars	#3045		\$75.00				
Dahlberg, Deidre & ED	#8651		\$50.00				
Ellis, C&B	#1280		\$50.00				
Eriksson, Richard & Gloria	#5070		\$50.00				
Gorrell, Thelma and George	#6322		\$55.00				
Griffith, Laverne	#1576		\$25.00				
Hening, Kark & Joesie	#9341		\$50.00				
Hopkins, Bernice & Dean	#6513		\$55.00				
Ingvardsen, Dale & Margaret	#4824		\$50.00				
Johnson, Craid, W. & Guest	#6804		\$55.00				
Johnson,, Neil & Sandra	#9531		\$50.00				
Kauffman, Michell & Charlie	#620		\$55.00				
Krastins, Liesma & Guest	#3055		\$55.00				
Larson, Jack & Linda	#3020		\$50.00				
Magneheim, Yvonne	CASH		\$25.00				
Matthews, Scott & Kathryn	#7331		\$50.00				
Nemy, Gail	#1116		\$25.00				
Netzel, Ed and Judy	CASH		\$50.00				
Netzel, James & Melissa	#6772		\$50.00				
Niemoller, Arthur & Donna	#1274		\$50.00				
Ostlund, Lars & Birgitta	#2247		\$50.00				
Pfannkuch, Kurt & Eivor	#0183		\$50.00				
Scherer, Dorothy and guest	#4489		\$55.00				
Stafford, Lillian	#13700		\$25.00				
Westtrup, Rosemaire & Dick	#8656	Deidre Dahlberg's check	\$50.00				
Widmar, Myrtle	#3025	in the building of their	\$25.00				
and a grade			\$23.00				
		Grand Total	\$1,430.00				

GRAND TOTAL

\$2180.00



Remembering Maud Udvardy

Maud was born on February 11, 1925, in Helsinki, Finland. She died in Sacramento, California, on December 17, 2010, from stroke complications. Maud was an ethnic Swede from Finland. After enduring the Finnish Winter war and World War II, in 1951, she married the late Dr. Miklós D. F. Udvardy, who was from Hungary. They first immigrated to Vancouver, Canada, where they had three children, Monica Lilly Udvardy, M. Andrew Udvardy, and Beatrix. Maud and Miklós spoke Swedish together and, recognizing that their children would learn English outside the family, they insisted that the children speak Swedish at home. The family moved to Sacramento in 1966. Maud spoke both her native Swedish and Finnish along with English, Spanish and German. Her adventurous life included living in Hawaii in 1959, a year in Honduras, and travelling by bus through South America. She wrote about her trips, acguired a B.A. degree from CSUS in California history, and vol-

unteered at the local history museum. An avid bridge player and exercise enthusiast, she never quit aerobics classes. She helped protect wildlife habitat in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Lifelong concern fueled her involvement with animal welfare organizations. She is survived by her three children and two grandchildren, Jacob and Sarah. Maud maintained a lifelong interest in her Finnish-Swedish heritage. Maud is dearly missed.

UDVARDY, Maud Emelie

Maud (född Björklund) föddes 11 februari 1925 I Helsingfors. Hon dog den 17 december 2010 i Sacramento, Kalifornien från komplikationer av ett slaganfall. Maud var finlandssvenska och genomled Finska vinterkriget och andra världskriget I Helsingfors. Hon gifte sig 1951 i Sverige med sin framlidne man Professor Miklos D. F. Udvardy, och immigrerade samma år till Vancouver, Kanada där hon föddde tre barn: Monica Lilly Udvardy, M. Andrew Udvardy, and Beatrix. Tillsammans med sin familj flyttade hon 1966 till Sacramento i Kalifornien. Förutom sitt modersmål svenska, talade Maud flera språk flytande: finska, engelska, tyska, och spanska. Maud var en entusiastisk globetrotter och reste världen runt tills sin död. Under sitt äventyrliga liv, för att nämna några exempel, bodde hon i Hawaii när ögruppen blev en delstat, spenderade ett år i Honduras, och reste med lokala bussar genom Sydamerika. Hon skrev om sina resor, tog en fil kand i historia på California State University i Sacramento, och arbetade som frivillig på Sacramentos historiska museum. Hon älskade att spela bridge och gick på gymnastik under hela sitt liv. Hon var också djupt engagerad i djurens välfärd, både som husdjur och i det vilda. Maud bidrog till många djur- och naturvårdsorganisationer och såg till att det skapades naturskyddsområden i Sierra Nevadabergen i Kalifornien. Hennes efterlevande är hennes tre barn samt två barnbarn, Jacob och Sarah. Maud uppehöll under sin livstid ett stort intresse för sitt finlandssvenska arv. Hon är mycket saknad



Newly initiated members (v-h or I-r) Neil Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Anita Nord, Theresa Alberts

A WARM AND HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR LODGE

