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

Volume 9, Issue 3

March 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 EVENTS

March 4th Peasoup/Pancake Dinner Team 2 Social 5:30

> April 1st Anniversary Dinner

April 29—May 1 96th Annual Convention 100th Anniversary District 12

> Hilton Garden Inn 1800 Powell Street Emeryville, CA 94608

'Life isn't about



the storm,

<u>But how to</u>

dance

in the rain.'



Pictures Page 12 courtesty of Brian Stockham. Tack.

SNOWSHOE THOMPSON VIKING OF THE SIERRA CONCLUDED

Wooster further explained in his letter how he and some kids once gave into their temptation of turning Snowshoe's frozen tracks into a sled run. They shot down the mountain like rockets: "The skis held to the track, but three of the kids went tumbling down a steep mountain." When Thompson heard of the incident he searched out the kids and gave them a spanking they never forgot!

There are a variety of stories of how and when Thompson met his wife, the English woman, Agnes Singleton, who had come to America with her step-mother. My personal favorite is that he gave her ski lessons. They were married in 1866, however there are as many discrepancies as to the location. They settled on the property Thompson had homesteaded a few years earlier in Diamond Valley (Alpine County) - just east and at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, 5 miles to the west of Carson Valley.

Deeply involved in the land and its uses, Thompson raised grains wheat, oats, hay and potatoes. As he explained in letters to his family, the only fruits he could grow were gooseberries and currents, due to the late spring and early fall frosts. He constructed irrigation ditches, from the West Fork of the Carson River to his ranch, that are still in service today. In the winter he cared for 90 head of cattle and 20 horses - half his own, and the rest were boarded for others who lived higher up in the mountains.

The Thompson's only child, Arthur Thomas, was born on February 11, 1867. His father could hardly wait to take him snowshoeing, and made him a tiny pair of snowshoes for his first birthday. In Alpine County, Thompson enjoyed teaching his neighbors how to make snowshoes, giving them lessons and offering chilling demonstrations of his jumps at the top of Silver Mountain. Just as it seemed he was going to run into the onlookers midway down the slope, he would spring up again, flying right over them with a wide smile on his face. In one of his races, he skied 1600 feet in 21 seconds (55 miles per hour), and his greatest jump was known to be 180 feet, in the early 1870's!

From 1868 to 1872 Thompson served on the Board of Supervisors of Alpine County, and was a delegate to the Republican State Convention in Sacramento in 1871. In spite of a resolution sent to Washington, D.C. by the Nevada Legislature, the many political contacts he had gathered, and a trip to Washington, D.C. in 1872, Snowshoe Thompson was never paid for his services delivering the United States Mail.

Snowshoe Thompson died of appendicitis which developed into pneumonia on May 15, 1876. His son, Arthur, died two years later of diphtheria, and was buried next to his father at the cemetery in Genoa. Agnes remarried in 1884, but the following year had a snow-white marble erected on Snow-shoe's grave, engraved with a pair of crossed skis and the memento "Gone but not forgotten."

The Genoa postmaster S.A.Kinsey said: "Most remarkable man I ever knew, that Snowshoe Thompson. He must be made of iron. Besides, he never thinks of himself, but he'd give his last breath for anyone else - even a total stranger." The few times Thompson had thought of putting an end to his legendary Snowshoe Express, he continued just for the look on the faces of the people living in isolation. Hundreds of thousands from all parts of the globe emigrated to California in search of gold, but few left such a heartfelt mark on the Golden State's history as John A. "Snowshoe" Thompson.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS WHAT'S ON THE MENU IN MARCH 3/1 Dorothy Bjur As Finland was until 1809 part of the Swedish **Dorothy Scherer** 3/2 Realm. Sweden and Finland share many cultural 3/12 Paige Tally traditions, including that of the pea soup 3/17 Kenneth Carlson 3/18 George Kantar (Swedish ärtsoppa: Finnish hernekeitto). usu-3/20 Helen Johnson ally eaten on Thursdays, served with pork and 3/28 Dan Backman mustard and accompanied by pancakes for des-3/29 Joyce Burns sert. However, in Finland it is made of green 3/30 Art Neimoller peas, in Sweden yellow. The tradition of eating pea soup and pancakes on Thursdays is said to VARMA GRATULATIONER PÅ FÖDELSEDAGEN originate in the pre-Reformation era, as preparation for fasting on Friday. DAGAR KOMMER DAGAR GÅR... NU ÄR DET DAGS DATE: MARCH 4TH -DU FYLLER ÅR! SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 ETT ÅR DU FYLLT DINNER AND CULTURAL MED MER LIV ATT TITTA PÅ PROGRAM TO FOLLOW MED PERSPEKTIV TEAM 2 EN GÅVA ÖR DET ÅR DU FÅTT. SÅ MINNS DET NU Don't forget February's Phrases I STORT OCH SMÅTT. Jag älskar dig (I love you) MEN BÄST AV ALLT -DET KOMMER MERA. SÅ VISST ÄR DU Jag tycker om dig (I like you) ATT GRATULAERA!



YOU KNOW THE COFFEE POT AT THE HALL?

Well, most of you don't know it very well! Here are some helpful hints that should keep the coffee coming for an entire meeting. This is not rocket science, but it is a bit tricky.

- 1. Plug it into the wall socket
- 2. Wait 10-15 minutes for the water to heat up in the reservoir in the center of the pot. **DO NOT PUT MORE WATER INTO THE UNIT UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED STEP 3.**
- 3. Place a filter in the basket, fill the basket with the desired amount of coffee. Put the filled basket in its holder, then place an **EMPTY** carafe underneath it.
- 4. Now it is time to put a carafe-full of cold water into the unit, using the flip-open hole in the top!!
- 5. Turn on all the warming plate switches.
- 6. When the carafe is full of brewed coffee, place it on one of the two warmers and begin again at Step 3.

JULMARKNAD Chicago 2010

By Carol Nesewich

Chicago's Andersonville is a long-standing Swedish community on the north side of the city. It is a neighborhood that started as a small Scandinavian settlement after the Great Fire of 1871 and boomed in the early 20th century. Its Swedish American Museum is a great place to explore the Swedish culture any time of year, but is especially fun during the Christmas Holidays.

My husband, Phil, and I were both raised in the Chicago area but hadn't been back for a visit in many years until early this past December. One of our special stops was Andersonville's Museum and the annual Julmarknad set up inside the building. This Christmas bazaar offered all things Swedish, including Scandinavian antiques, traditional handicrafts for purchase as well as modern crafts. A kaffestuga sold open-faced Swedish sandwiches and marzipan desserts. Entertainment included folk dancing and various musical presentations, including a 'performance of Lucia' by the Nordic Voices of Chicago. The repertoire of this all-women's choir, dressed in white robes with red sashes and crowns of candles, contained many songs in the Swedish language. The children's Museum offered crafts, games, and a special visit from Santa for the kids.

After purchasing a round of bondöst, a large stick of göteborgskorv, and a bag of skorpor from a vendor inside the Christmas Fair, we relaxed at a table in the kaffestuga area and enjoyed sand-wiches, dessert, berry punch, and coffee. Next: a self-guided tour of the Museum's permanent exhibit, *A dream of America: Swedish Immigration to Chicago.* The exhibit follows Swedish immigrants from their journey to the New World to building a life and community in Chicago. On display are authentic artifacts that reflect the experiences of these immigrants. Included are household items they packed for their voyage, travel items such a passports and steamship tickets, memorabilia of Chi-

cago's Swedish-Swedish folk crafts they

Of course, the plete without a picture large wooden Dala blue. About the size of a few doors north of the and Stockholm are de-



American organizations, and produced in the U.S.

neighborhood visit was not comtaken next to Andersonville's Horse, hand-carved and painted pony, it stands on the corner a museum. The cities of Chicago picted on its sides.





KERSTIN LARSEN

AUDREY (ABBY) BOXWELL

Meet our newest members Kerstin Larsen and Audrey (Abby) Boxwell. Kerstin is sponsored by Annika Anderson and lives in Elk Grove by way of Göteborg, SV. Abby is sponsored by Dale Ingvardsen and lives in Sacramento. We all look forward to getting to know these two members. Välkommen!



(B) IKEA West Sacramento is Turning Five Years Old! IKEA West Sacramento to host Five Year Anniversary Party Friday, March 4th through Sunday, March 6th. 700 IKEA Court, West Sacramento, CA 95605

Enjoy entertainment for the kids such as free face painting

each day from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm! Eat up one of our free anniversary cupcakes from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm after you've enjoyed free breakfast each day from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the IKEA Restaurant.

Also coming up at IKEA, an all you can eat Smörgåsbord for Easter on Friday, April 15th from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm in the IKEA Restaurant. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the restaurant and are \$9.99 for adults and \$2.49 for children twelve and under.

Monitor Lodge #218 February 4, 2011

Meeting minutes

Call to order: Chair James Netzel called the meeting to order

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

Chair James Netzel Vice Chair Jack Larson Secretary Arlene White Asst. Rec. Secretary Absent Financial Secretary Yvonne Magneheim Assistant Fin. Secretary Kurt Pfannkuch Treasurer Karin Johnson Cultural Committee Myrtle Widmark Melissa Netzel Chaplain Birgitta Ellis

Actions & Activities:

- New Members: Membership approved two new members, Kerstin Larsen and Audrey (Abby) Boxwell. They were unanimously approved for membership and initiated.
- There were 2 changes made to the January minutes:

Anita Nord's name was inadvertently left out of new members initiated and there is not a John Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund any contributions in his name go into the Monitor Lodge Scholarship fund.

- Dale Ingvardsen encouraged us to talk to people regarding Membership.
- The results of the committee meeting for the convention were reported by Gail Nemy. The
 next meeting will be held at the Double Tree on May 18 at 2:00 P.M. Gail also reminded us
 that the committee is pursuing ways to make the 100th anniversary very special and looking
 for ways to make money for this occasion.
- There was no unfinished business.
- No correspondence was presented at this meeting
- March meeting will be hosted by Team #2
- New Business: Dale Ingvardsen reminded us that the 99th anniversary dinner will be on April

 at the Dante Club and the cost for members is \$25. Needed are items for raffle and silent
 auction.
- Delegates for convention were nominated and unanimously approved. Johanna Benker and Yvonne Magneheim will be attending Melissa Netzel as alternate.
- Ed Netzel mentioned that we also needed somebody to serve on the district board, so if dele-

gates are approached to please consider serving.

• Bills were presented for the newsletter, bar, and rent. Ed Netzel motioned we approve pay ment and Kurt Pfannkuch seconded. Motion carried.

Good of the Order.

- Ed Netzel is selling the 50/50 raffle tickets for Sweden Day.
- Scott Matthews reported for the Executive Board Meeting and the Sweden Day meeting. The next district newsletter will be the last one mailed. For those members not having e-mail the newsletter will be provided by the lodge.
- Gold Nugget and Reno Lodges will be disbanding.
- Vote on stipend for delegates to convention will be voted on at March meeting.
- Jack Larson requested that all members who have e-mail addresses please furnish them.
- James Netzel requested that we come up with a plan to clean up the storage area.
- Yvonne Magneheim gave a report on membership which stands at 133 members. Also those who have not paid their dues can still do so.
- Members with birthday in January and February were honored by singing of "Ja Ma Han Leva"
- Jack Larson reminded us of the radio program "Sounds of Sweden" and that we are actively looking for sponsors so that we can continue.

Closing: Chaplain's Message.

James Netzel adjourned meeting.



HELP MARIANNE EK SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE THREE MISSING LACE-MAKING PILLOWS THAT DISAPPEARED DURING OUR MOVE(S)! THEY LOOK

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE IN THE PICTURE, TWO ARE COVERED AND ONE IS NOT. MARIANNE IS READY AND WILLING TO HELP A LODGE MEMBER LEARN THIS INTERESTING CRAFT. GIVE HER A CALL AT 916-371-7756 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

WWW.KJAY1430.com is the Web Address for Sounds of Sweden. Click the "Listen" tab. Under "International Saturday," click Sounds of Sweden.

MediaFire opens. You see a list of SOS broadcasts in blue. As you scroll over the blue it becomes underlined. Click the program you want to hear. The popup about upgrading to MediaPro means nothing so just close it. In the yellow rectangular box click "Click Here to Start Download." Open the file to listen right after it downloads or save it to listen to later. This is a perfectly safe



Site. Enjoy! Remember, you can send a greeting to a friend or relative anywhere in the world for a small contribution.

THE FISH CHURCH



If you – like me – love to eat anything (almost...) that comes from the sea – well, then you must make your way to Gothenburg's finest, the fish church! The fish church – or Feskekörka as the place proudly is called in a Gothenburg accent – is not exactly a place where you go to worship fish, but not far from. It's basically a big fish market, located in an amazing church-like building in the centre of Gothenburg.

It opened in 1874 and has since then been one of the most famous places and landmarks in Gothenburg. It was built for the fish marketpurpose and has never been a real church, but the building was considered very futuristic and original back in the 19th century. Today, Feskekörkan hosts several different fish mongers, two restaurants and any type of fish or shellfish you can get within the region. It's rated as Sweden's biggest place for fish, fish-knowledge and cooking-advice and I promise you, it's well worth a visit if you

are a fish lover!

Browse a fantastic selection of fresh langoustine (**havskräfta**), crab (**krabba**), lobster (**hummer**), cod (**torsk**), catfish (**havskatt**), monkfish (**marulk**), mackerel (**makrill**), lemon sole (**bergtunga**), haddock (**kolja**), salmon (**lax**), plaice (**rödspätta**) and whiting (**vittling**). Or, just enjoy a cold beer and some fresh shrimps (**räkor**) in one of the two restaurants inside the church. And if you like oysters (**ostron**), make sure to have a chat with Johan Malm from Restaurant Gabriel, the Worlds Oyster Opening Champion!

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