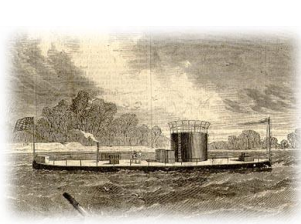


Monitor Lodge, #218
Sacramento, California
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



[Monitor Lodge Website](#)



September 2017

September event. We had a delightful evening with over 60 people in attendance. We started off solemnly draping the charter in memory of Barbara Wickstrom-Erickson but then moved on to welcoming three new members, Sarah Cuthill, William Hanley and Larry Woodward. We then enjoyed a wonderful repast of stuffed pork loin, onion pie, creamed vegetables and Swedish almond cake and followed that with a fascinating “Don Quixote tours Skåne” presentation made by Brian Horsfield on windmills in southern Sweden.

Scandinavian Festival follow-up. Thank you again to everyone who helped make this year’s festival a huge success. And a special thank you to Annika Rae and Daniel Eriksson who served as flag bearers for the Swedish and America flags, respectively.



Annika Rae



Daniel Eriksson (on right)

2017 Calendar of events

September 8th – Friday –
Catered Dinner and
nomination for 2018

October 6th – Friday –
Potluck dinner

November 3rd – Friday –
Kaffekalas and election of
officers

December 2nd – Saturday –
Julbord & Jul Glögg Party

December 8th – Friday –
Lucia celebration

2018 Calendar of events

January 5th, 2018 – Friday
Catered dinner and
installation of officers

February 2nd – Friday -
Pea Soup & Pancakes

March 2nd – Friday – Corn
Beef & Cabbage

April 7th – Saturday –
Monitor’s 106th
Anniversary Luncheon

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Gail Nemy, Karin Johnson and Arlie Veis taking a very brief and well deserved rest



Three generations of modern Viking women – Johanna Benker with her daughter and granddaughter.

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Member of the Month. This month we are featuring one of our eldest and longest serving members of Monitor Lodge – Arlie Veis! The story of Arlie Veis in his own words:

“My parents were born and raised in Denmark, married in 1905 and three of seven children were born in Denmark. In 1912 they decided to immigrate to the United States and purchased tickets for the Titanic. Yes, **THE** Titanic.

When they arrived in Lancaster, England in early August they found out their tickets had been transferred to the Lusitania – the Titanic was oversold. Sounds like something happening today with airlines. At any rate that fateful voyage was avoided. They settled in South Dakota for a couple of years – added another child. Dad had applied for a Homestead in Montana and the family moved there in 1917. Three more children arrived with the help of a nurse-midwife. One of my older brothers had to ride about 7 miles to fetch Mrs. Olson to make the delivery. The last one was me. On Sept. 16th 1924. I think poor Mrs. Olson had had it.



Most of our neighbors were Scandinavian and I remember some Danish, but we were required to speak English. School was in a little country schoolhouse about 5 miles away and **yes** the three young ones walked many times. Sometimes we got to ride two horses. Fun times. Life on the homestead was pretty trying. The house wasn't exactly fitted for the cold Montana winters. We had a big pot-bellied stove that was stoked with lignite coal from an open mine. Blankets and sheepskin coats were piled on top of us in bed, I could scarcely turn over. But there were good times too. A community hall was a few miles away where there were dances, baseball games, picnics, And homemade ice cream. **OH BOY !!**

The Dust Bowl years arrived and we abandoned the farm – moving into Scobey, Montana where I graduated from high school. This is where the other story comes in. There were 5 of us young – **soon** to be 16 year old sophomores who decided we would like to take a tour of Montana. One had a 1929 Model A Ford that seemed to fit the purpose. We piled it high with a tent, bed rolls, boxes of groceries and whatever we might need and set off. (with about \$7.00 each in our pockets). I don't remember of any parents objecting. We camped in Great Falls the first night and set off for Glacier National Park the next day. About 15 miles out of town a Highway Patrolman with lights flashing stopped us. He came to inform us that one of the guys' Dad had passed away the night before. We were set to turn around but “Don” insisted we go on. How did that patrolman find us -- he was informed to look for an old car that looked like “The Beverly Hillbillies” car. We continued on and toured Glacier and Yellowstone Parks making about a 1500 mile round trip. In Yellowstone we had a “bear attack” on our car. A mother and two cubs broke into the car – our neighbor campers were out banging on pots and pans and shouting when I woke up to see the mother bear running away with a loaf of bread and a cub had a box of Wheaties in his mouth. Hey, “that's my breakfast” I shouted as I chased him. He did drop it and after

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wiping off a little bear saliva from the box, we had cereal to eat. I was told that that wasn't the wisest move I ever made. But when I came home I passed my "camping merit badge" and gained my Eagle Scout ranking.

Upon graduating and being 18, I signed up for the draft which had just been instituted – entered the Armed Service in Feb. 1944, served 3 years – two in the South Pacific. I was with some of the first forces to enter Japan after the Armistice. Having had Basic training in California and spending 4 months at Stanford University in the Army Specialized Training, I liked California and returned upon discharge. It was here in Sacramento in 1946 I met Ruth, my wife of 43 years. We had two children, Karin and Jon. I worked for DeVons Jewelers as a watchmaker for 35 years, retiring in 1986.

Our whole family joined Monitor Lodge in 1962, -- Karin and Jon in the Children's Club, which Ruth directed (me assisting) for five years. Karin was a member of the troupe that toured and performed in Sweden in 1964. I was Chairman in 1968 and also served as Vice District Master that year and District Master in 1969.

Music being a part of our family life I sang in St. John's Lutheran choir for 57 years, and have been a member there for 71 years. I have sung in three different Scandinavian chorus's. Even though I am 100% Danish (I often let Swedes in on that little secret) I haven't had any problem being a "Danish Swede". After all my children are half Swedish and they too have been active members of Monitor with Karin ultimately becoming chairperson and Jon was treasurer at one time. With my 55 year membership pin now accomplished I will still till strive to make a positive contribution to Monitor's success. One record still stands – I haven't challenged a bear in a race since I was 15 years old. "Lange leve Kungen !!" I didn't say which one – so I'll toast them both. "

Upcoming Monitor events. We will be having nominations for our 2018 officers at our October 6th potluck meeting. We will also be selecting Monitor 's 2018 Scandinavian Festival delegates and recommending our preferences for the proposed festival date – April 21 or June 16, 2018. **Start exercising your vocal chords and taste buds!** We will be hosting Sierra Kronan at our Julbord for a Glogg competition and at the Lucia celebration in December we will have a "reunion" sing-a-thon of former Monitor choristers as well as new voices performing several Swedish Christmas songs. We all know the melodies and we will provide song sheets with the Swedish lyrics.

Would you like to hear more Swedish? Check out a new foreign film streaming video service offered by Mhz Choice (<http://watch.mhzchoice.com>). The cost is minimal and many of the films have English subtitles. If you want to see what is being offered, click on "search" then type in "Swedish" and enjoy. Tack to Marianne Ek for this new language resource.