Monitor Lodge No. 218
Editor: Ingrid Kennedy

Meeting Place: Wisteria Hall
3830 U Street, Sacramento CA

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 18, No. 9 November 1994

November 4 is a regular business meeting, starting at 7:00 pm, with refreshments afterwards (always a treat). Please come and help decide the important issues before our lodge.

Chairman's Message

If you missed our October dinner meeting, you missed a great meal. We tried something different this year: *Pytt i panna.* Hope you all liked it.

Tack, tack to our cooks Ingrid Kennedy, Ellen Harrod, and Myrtle Widmark. Of course, Ed Dahlberg and Ernie Skorheim are always on the job—and there are always lots of other helpers. What would we do without you?!

At our meeting, two new members were initiated, Chuck and Berthell Nelson received their 25-year pins, new officers were voted in, and we agreed on the program for 1995. We had a busy meeting and also have a busy year ahead of us.

– In Truth and Unity
Margaret Carlson

Friendship Committee

Best wishes to Martha Fredrickson who recently had surgery. We understand she's doing fine. Hope to see you at our meetings again soon, Martha!

District Cultural Seminar

Can you imagine Wisteria Hall turned into a "Little Bit of Sweden?" Well, that's exactly what Eivor Pfannkuch, our District Cultural Leader, did. What a fantastic day she had planned for the seminar!

There were about 60 of us attending this fun-filled and interesting day. It started with *kaffe med dopp* when we arrived. Every minute of the seven-hour day was a learning experience. Lunch was typically Swedish, all the way from pickled herring, home made cheese, and home made bread to aquavit. And before we left in the afternoon, *smörgåstårta* was served.

In our folders, Eivor had provided recipes and instructions on how to make everything, including the table decorations. Everyone walked away with a day to remember, and the general comment was that they had "never seen anything like this!"

Tack, Eivor. Monitor Lodge is proud of you!

– Margaret Carlson,
Chairman

For the fourth year, William Glen at Fulton & Marconi has a fantastic Swedish Christmas display, complete with tomtar. It's in their Christmas shop, not the regular store. Don't miss it!

Pancake Breakfast

Chairpersons John and Jewel Wright and Myrtle Widmark did an outstanding job on our annual pancake breakfast. We know it takes a lot of work. The usual pancake makers, Ernie Skorheim, Ed Dahlberg, and Kenneth Carlson were on hand, along with other cooks, servers, etc. Lots of thanks to everyone who helped—including the people who made the all important pancake batter!

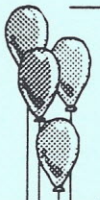
Farmer Bob's place makes a perfect country setting for this outdoor event. The weather cooperated (although it was a bit windy!) and a good time was had by all.

★

Smörgåsbord

November 12 is almost here with our biggest money making event of the year. We need everyone's help to make it a success. Remember, if you help in some way or furnish food and do not occupy a seat, you will not have to buy a ticket in order to partake in all the good food.

So when you are asked to help with the preparations, please don't say no. We also hope everyone can make it to the Smörgåsbord. Tell your friends about it and try to sell some tickets. However, keep in mind that seating is limited.



Hjärtliga gratulationer på födelsedagen!

11/01 - Anne Phelan
11/04 - Viola Hallen
11/06 - Louise Amundsen
11/06 - Kerstin Doze
11/07 - Wendy Strand
11/09 - William Dyckman
11/10 - Joyce Trnka
11/13 - Donna Niemoller
11/16 - Russell Ellis
11/16 - Jeannine Lokey
11/19 - Alice Axberg
11/19 - Christine Kagstrom
11/22 - Judy Beal
11/23 - Kathy Goldsberry
11/24 - Lillian Stafford
11/25 - Terry Tillman
11/27 - Barbara Olson
11/30 - Thelma Range
11/30 - Janice Sjogren

★

Nål och Tråd

We will be having one meeting only in November, at which time we will prepare for the *Smörgåsbord*:

Tisdagen den 8 november, kl. 19.00, hos:
Ethel Johnson
4344 53rd Street
Sacramento, CA 95820
Tel.: 457-0966

Nål och Tråd will have items for sale at the *Smörgåsbord*. Come and do your Christmas shopping for trees, ornaments, cards, T-shirts, cookie recipe books, etc.

★

1995 Officers

The following officers were unanimously elected for 1995 at our October meeting:

Chairman:
Margaret Carlson
Vice Chairman:
Arthur Niemoller
Secretary:
Marianne Ek
Assistant Secretary:
Brian Stockham
Financial Secretary:
Gail Nemy
Assistant Financial Secretary:
Ingegerd Kennedy
Treasurer:
Betty Schoeph
Cultural Leader:
Jewel Wright
Chaplain:
Dorothy Scherer
Master of Ceremonies:
Peggy Carlson
Assistant Master of Ceremonies:
Liesma Krastins
Inner Guard:
Leo Krastins
Outer Guard:
John Wright
Historian:
Eleanor Vine
Past Chairman:
Myrtle Widmark
Trustees:
Diedre Dahlberg (1 year)
Helen Jensen (2 years)
Donn Stafford (3 years)
Auditors:
Liesma Krastins (1 year)
Arlie Veis (2 years)
Richard Westrup (3 years)
Membership Committee:
Ethel Johnson (1 year)
Jean Anderson (2 years)
Eivor Pfannkuch (3 years)
Scholarship Committee:
Christine Bodelson (1 year)
Jewel Wright (2 years)
Ronny Kagstrom (3 years)

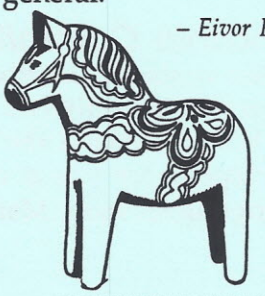
From Our District Cultural Leader

Tusen, tusen tack!

The District Cultural Seminar on October 8 was a great success thanks to so many helpful Monitor members. We had well over 50 participants who were treated to Swedish breakfast, a full noon meal, and then coffee and *smörgåstårta* before they left for home in the afternoon. I could never have accomplished all of this without the expert cooks of our lodge and all the willing "waitresses" and other helpers. Kurt Pfannkuch and David Dorey helped with the slides, Marianne Ek with the music, and Mai Loken with displays and art instructions. Birgitta Östlund cooked and baked and so did Dorothy Scherer and Eleanor Vine. Margaret Carlson, Myrtle Widmark, Ethel Johnson, Jean Anderson, and Karin Dorey not only cooked and baked, but they also were at the seminar from early in the morning to help set up and serve. Liesma Krastins and Louise Sims were excellent helpers, too, throughout the day. Special thanks to Ronny and Christi Kågström who put on an excellent program about northern Sweden and the Sami people as part of the seminar.

I hope I didn't forget anyone, but I appreciate all of you. Especially Kurt, who put in many hours before the event creating handouts and supported me in general.

– Eivor Pfannkuch



Minutes from the October 7 Business Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Margaret Carlson at 7:50 pm and roll was called.
2. Initiation ceremony was held for Robert and Gail Johnson.
3. There were no new applications for membership, but we have three prospective members.
4. Previous meeting minutes were approved.
5. The Friendship Committee reported that Martha Fredrickson had surgery but is getting along OK now.
6. Monitor will be hosting a District Cultural Seminar on October 8 at Wisteria Hall.
7. One of our new members, Daniel Backman, is our next Member of the Month.
8. Marianne Ek has sent articles and pictures to Vasa Star, but they don't appear in the magazine for several months.
9. The price of the property the district is considering for use as the Golden Gate Resort Center has been reduced from $190,000 to $170,000. The committee is also looking at other property.
10. The secretary will order Swedish calendars to be sold to the members.
11. The meeting discussed the pancake breakfast and the *Smörgåsbord*. Lots of help is needed for both.
12. The date for the next Scandinavian Festival meeting has been changed to October 24. Contact Ellen Harrod for details.
13. Monitor members are invited to the Sons of Norway's *torsk* dinner on October 22.
14. A committee will check into the possibility of arranging a bus trip to Swedish shops in the Bay Area.
15. The meeting voted to adopt the proposed program for 1995.
16. The meeting elected the proposed slate of officers for 1995. [See p. 2 of this newsletter.]
17. Myrtle Widmark read a letter from the accordian club in Kil, Sweden, that entertained us at a *sillfrukost* a few years ago.
18. Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read.
19. The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

– Jean Anderson, Assistant Secretary

November Dues Anniversaries

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

Alice Axberg
Lisa Bleasdale
Elizabeth Bushnell
Ellen Herting
Erika Lewis
Janice Sjogren
Roy Sjogren
Marjorie Skicklig
Sophia Swanson
Janice Woodruff

Dues are $14 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the November meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Language Class

The intermediate and advanced Swedish language class meets at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street, Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. LaVerne Gullans is the teacher. The students have been busy reading text books and newspaper articles, speaking, doing grammar lessons, and singing. The class will meet through November 17 for this quarter.

For more information, call LaVerne at 485-2609 or Myrtle Widmark at 481-4056.

Please send all input for the December newsletter to Ingrid Kennedy by Friday, November 11

The Library

has some very old, donated dictionaries, which members could admire at our October meeting. We have books on a variety of subjects, all available for check-out.

– Myrtle Widmark

For More Information about Monitor Lodge

please contact:

- Membership Committee members Jan Anderson 682-7438 or Ethel Johnson 457-0966
- Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-7824
- Vice Chairman Ingrid Kennedy 638-3212
- Chairman Margaret Carlson at 742-9346

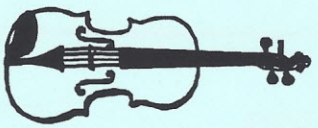
Member of the Month

This month we get to know one of our new members, Dan Backman, who writes:

What goes around comes around! That's about the way it happened for my wife, Violet, and me when we joined Monitor this past spring, thanks to an excellent recruiter, Arlie Veis.

Vi and I met as teenagers when I played with a group of musicians at Vasa dances in Everett, Washington. Vi danced with the guys while we played polka, vals hambo, and schottis. At least I was able to keep an eye on her. We had both arrived in Everett as seven-year-olds. Vi and her parents came from Sweden, where Vi was born in Lokum, Ångermanland. I came with my parents from Minneapolis, where they had arrived in 1914 from Jämtland. I did win Vi's hand in the end and we have been married for 53 years this coming Christmas Eve.

The depression years were rough on many of the Scandinavian immigrants. Shortly after my father was laid off from his work on the railroad, he passed away. I was the only child and my mother did everything she could for me, especially seeing that I took violin lessons, as music was very important to her. I received a scholarship to the University of Washington, where I graduated with a BA degree in Music and a teaching certificate for the state of Washington.



After two years of teaching music in Vancouver, I joined the Navy. While on training duty at Texas A&M, Vi and I were married. She followed me to Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, where I attended an advanced radar training school. Our next stops were Treasure Island and the Alameda Naval Air Station, where I was assigned as instructor in radar operation and maintenance.

Upon receiving an appointment to the Naval Reserve Midshipman School in Plattsburg, N.Y., we moved east. As a brand new ensign, I was assigned to an APA attack transport as the gunnery division officer. For the next 14 months we shuttled marine and army units to the various islands in the South Pacific, ending up with delivering army assault forces to Tokyo Bay and VJ Day, September 2,1945. We made two more voyages transporting marines and Chinese troops into north China.

Then it was home to get to work. After returning to Vancouver, we took a year off for a stint at Columbia University in New York City, where I received my master's degree in Viola Performance and Music Education. After ten years in Vancouver, we moved to Arcata, California, where I was on the music department staff at Humboldt State College for a number of years before finally arriving in Sacramento. Here I was associated with the San Juan public schools for 19 years and 32 years as a violist with the Sacramento Symphony.

We have two Swedish-looking daughters and German and English son-in-laws. Our two grandchildren look both Scandinavian and German. Vi's mother, who will be 100 next March, lives nearby in a senior citizen's apartment.

Roster Changes

Welcome to our new members

Robert & Gail Johnson
8866 Mandalay Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624
686-1361

Anne and Hans Fors have a new post office address (the rest remains the same:
Antelope, CA 95843

Here are more changes:

Thor & Erika Barrows
8863 Greenback Lane #111
Orangevale, CA 95662
(We don't know if the phone number is the same)

Judy Beal
100 Woodview Court
Folsom, CA 95671
Phone, Judy?

Melvin & Ardeth Coster
7550 Amy Avenue
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
961-9992

William & Helen Dyckman
2056 Kettner Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-2207

Madeleine Hallstrom-Hinman
1098 Woodcreek Oaks Blvd.
#1708
Roseville, CA 95747

Happy Halloween

The Martin's Goose

On November 10, St Martin's "Eve," people hailing from the province of Skåne come together; not exactly because of the saint himself, but on account of his thousand-year-old attribute—the goose. The connection between the two has an economic background. Geese are at their fattest in early November, so this is the right time for dispatching them. In St Martin's native France, this was also the time for tasting the new vintage. And the saint had to be honored with a good meal, of course. So the trio of goose, wine, and Martin was forged in France, spread to Germany and, in the 16th Century, found its way to Sweden.

The history of geese in Sweden goes back to the Stone Age, but the earliest known connection with Martin occurs in Stockholm in 1567. The Martin goose flourished among the upper classes until the end of the 18th century, when agricultural improvement deprived geese of their favorite habitat, fallow fields, and they disappeared from most parts of Sweden. By the end of the 18th century, geese were a rarity except in Skåne, where the grazing lands round about the villages gave them something to live on, and so the custom of eating goose on the feast of St Martin survived there. This is why many people believe that the custom is of Scanian origin.

The menu is topped by a heavily spiced, sweet and sour soup, "black soup," made from goose or pig's blood, and of such disputed merit, even in Sweden, that an alternative—consommé, for example—is usually available. The main course is the roast goose. For dessert there will be *spettkaka*, a remarkable three-foot high ziggurat made from innumerable egg yolks and sugar and baked over an open fire. This "pyramid cake" used to be widespread, but today it is eaten only in Skåne and the Pyrenees. To the Scanians, this trinity of "black soup," roast goose and *spettkaka* is a proud provincial symbol, so many of them wouldn't care to know that the whole thing was invented in a Stockholm restaurant during the 1850s.

(This article, submitted by Eivor Pfannkuch, is from "Maypoles, Crayfish and Lucia, Swedish Holidays and Traditions" by Jan-Öjvind Swahn.)

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