

Skandia Nytt

SKANDIA LODGE #247, VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

VOL. 98, No. 6 JUNE 2010

Chairman:

Birgitta Roodsari

Vice Chairman:

Nel Solt

Past Chairman

Jackie Ahlen

Secretary:

Betsy Cepielik

Financial Sec:

Lori Wennbo

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Bob Solt

Cultural Leader:

Nel Solt

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Birgitta Roodsari

Jackie Ahlen

Auditors:

Armand Deny

District Deputy:

Lori Wennbo

Chairman's Message

Midsummer was in full swing at our June meeting. Instead of our regular business meeting, we celebrated in style with midsummer decorations, a dinner, a silent auction, a show and tell relating to Midsummer and good fellowship.

A delicious dinner was served by our wonderful members. The silent auction contained many marvelous treasures and there was some real competitive bidding on the various items. District Master Robert Salk gave his greetings from the District.

Birgit Lindberg of North Star showed her late daughter's collection of pressed Midsummer flowers and then explained different kinds of midsummer poles found in each region of Sweden. Alma Marie Nordquist shared wood carvings of different dolls in Leksand costumes and the traditional Leksand boat. Jane Sandler of North Star shared some family moments with Åke, and I shared different items made of birch wood. It was a wonderful evening with about 40 people in attendance.

One of the most beautiful midsummer poles we have ever seen, covered with roses of all kinds and color was decorated by Armand Deny. The rose fragrances were wonderful. Thank you for a beautiful job. Thank you to all our marvelous Vasa brothers and sisters who helped make this such a beautiful evening.

Congratulations to Kirsten Orcutt for her graduation from Pasadena City College. She will be transferring to a 4 year college in the fall.

June 27 is the annual Midsummer Day in Vasa Park. Skandia Lodge is in charge of decorating the Maypole and we need everyone's help around 10:30 a.m.. Flowers and greenery are also needed. Come and help us out and then have a good time with all the festivities.

Our July 8 meeting will be a regular business meeting. Hope to see you there.

Hej då, Chairman **Birgitta**

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is On-Line!!

See what's going on
in the District

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To enroll, please send your e-mail address to BobSolt@juno.com and request Paperless Newsletter. Not only will you be saving paper, you will also save Skandia Lodge the cost of printing and mailing.

Prefer receiving you Skandia Nytt via the US Mail? Not to worry, we have no plans to eliminate the printed version of our newsletter.

The Editors

Member News

On Friday evening, June 18, 2010, Skandia member, **Kirsten Orcutt**, graduated from Pasadena City College with the Degree of Associate in Science. The graduating class looked spectacular in their dark blue robes and scarlet sashes. The program included a special recognition of the Nisei -second generation Japanese Americans- who had previously had their studies interrupted by the Second World War. The musical accompaniment for the evening was provided by the PCC band and the evening was just fine. Mom and Dad Orcutt--Dick and Judy--were justifiably proud of Kirsten's accomplishments. Kirsten's sister, Erica, attended also (from Atlanta where Erica's husband Alex stayed home with their couple's two daughters). Skandia Lodge was represented by Nel Solt and Jackie Ahlen and there were also many other Orcutt friends in the audience. Congratulations, Kirsten--way to go girl. Best wishes from all of us at Skandia. We are all so very proud of your accomplishments. (JEA)

JULY Happenings

Birthdays:

9 *Michelene Provo*
 11 *Perry Martin*
 13 *William Johnson*
 18 *Birgitta Roodsari*
 20 *Kristen Demarjian*
 24 *Rhoads Stephenson*

Business Meeting: (2 nd Thursday)

July 8

7 pm Social

8 pm Meeting

Hostess:

Betsy Cepielik and Lori Wenbo



Left: **Erik Lindberg** of North Star Lodge, aided by Bob Solt's knowledge of the precise location of the car's engine, succeeded in getting the 1969 Volvo 1800 running again.

People



Left: **Phyllis Cozad** was able to make an appearance at Skandia's Midsummer Dinner thanks to a ride provided by her daughter, Bobbi.

Right: **Bobbi Howard**, Phyllis' daughter, looks over some of the items on the silent auction table.



Left: **Susan Rose** and **Nel Solt** take a break from setting up Skandia's Midsummer Dinner buffet.

GEOGRAPHY FACTS

Alaska: More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska .

Amazon: The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% the world's oxygen supply. The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon river is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.

Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica . This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world. As strange as it sounds, however, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches Although covered with ice (all but 0.4% of it, ice.), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi desert.

Brazil got its name from the nut, not the other way around.

Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined. Canada is an Indian word meaning ' Big Village .'

Chicago: Next to Warsaw , Chicago has the largest Polish population in the world.

Detroit: Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, carries the designation M-1, so named because it was the first paved road anywhere.

Damascus, Syria, was flourishing a couple of thousand years before Rome was founded in 753 BC, making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence.

Istanbul, Turkey, is the only city in the world located on two continents.

Los Angeles's full name is El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula -- and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size: L.A.

New York City: The term 'The Big Apple' was coined by touring jazz musicians of the 1930's who used the slang expression 'apple' for any town or city.

Therefore, to play New York City is to play the big time - The Big Apple. There are more Irish in New York City than in Dublin , Ireland ; more Italians in New York City than in Rome, Italy ; and more Jews in New York City than in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Ohio: There are no natural lakes in the state of Ohio , everyone is manmade.

Pitcairn Island: The smallest island with country status is Pitcairn in Polynesia , at just 1.75 sq. miles/4,53 sq. km.

Rome: The first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome , Italy in 133 BC. There is a city called Rome on every continent.

Siberia contains more than 25% of the world's forests.

S.M.O.M. : The actual smallest sovereign entity in the world is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (S. M.O.M). It is located in the city of Rome, Italy, has an area of two tennis courts, and as of 2001 has a population of 80, 20 less people than the Vatican. It is a sovereign entity under international law, just as the Vatican is.

Sahara Desert: In the Sahara Desert , there is a town named Tidikelt , Algeria , which did not receive a drop of rain for ten years. Technically, the driest place on Earth is in the valleys of the Antarctic near RossIsland. There has been no rainfall there for two million years.

Spain literally means 'the land of rabbits.'

St. Paul, Minnesota was originally called Pig's Eye after a man named Pierre 'Pig's Eye' Parrant who set up the first business there.

Roads: Chances that a road is unpaved in the U.S.A : 1%, in Canada : 75%

United States: The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one-mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.

Waterfalls: The water of Angel Falls (the World's highest) in Venezuela drops 3,212 feet (979 meters). They are 15 times higher than Niagara Falls .

Submitted by Lisa Shelley

A Bit of Culture

Sven Hedin, 1865-1952

Sven Hedin was a Swedish explorer who spent approximately 20 years of his life traveling through Asia. The time of explorers is gone for now. Very few, if any, unknown areas are left on Earth.

Adolf Nordenskiöld, another Swedish explorer, returned from his travels up by North Cape when Hedin was in his teens. Nordenskiöld and his men were greeted as heroes on their return and this helped to get Hedin's interests in travels going. At the age of 20 he was offered a job as a tutor to a Swedish child whose family lived in Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea. When the assignment was over young Hedin took off for Asia. Once home again he studied in Stockholm and Berlin and he published his first book about his experiences in Persia. In 1889 he was appointed interpreter for the Swedish-Norwegian embassy in Teheran. When the time was up Hedin decided to stay in Teheran. He was dead set on going where no European had set foot before.



In 1901 Hedin started his quest to get into a Tibetan area, which had been closed to foreigners for many years. He finally made it in 1906.

During his time in China Hedin came across many unknown plants, animals and fossils. All of them were named after Hedin the scientific classification being hedini.

Sven Hedin received many great honors during his life. He was the last person to be raised to Swedish nobility in 1902. In 1909 Great Britain named him honorary Knight Commander of the Indian Empire.

Sven Hedin died in Stockholm in 1952 and is buried in Adolf Fredrik's Church.

If you want to know more about Sven Hedin and his incredible adventures you can go to <http://www.nordicway.com/search/The%20Great%20Explorer%20Sven%20Hedin.htm>

If Sven Hedin had not done all the mapping etc of all these "secret areas" somebody else would have. The question is: If Norwegian furniture maker Thor Bjorklund HAD NOT come up with the Scandinavian cheese-slicer – would someone else have done it???

Royal Wedding Church Service

Saturday June the 19th was a glorious day in Sweden when Crown princess Victoria married her one and only Daniel Westling. Great Thank You to Lenda Earl of North Star Lodge who let many of us know that if you go to http://svtplay.se/v/2048440/det_kunliga_brollopet/vigseln

you will be able to see the hour long church ceremony (click "Full Skärm" you'll see it 'full screen'). I would highly recommend it. The bridal couple was so unbelievably cute the Crown princess kissing "commoner Daniel's" hand and wiping his tears. Daniel received the title Prince immediately after the yeses were cleared away.

Come on Ladies!!!! You need this!

Nel Solt

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Smiles

Sent to me by a Canadian. A Newfie is from Newfoundland. They seem to be the brunt of many jokes:

Subject: Why Newfies Can't be Paramedics

Joe and Bud are out in the woods hunting when suddenly Bud grabs his chest and falls to the ground. He doesn't seem to be breathing; his eyes are rolled back in his head. Joe whips out his cell phone and calls 911.

He gasps to the operator, "By t'undering Jesus, I think Bud is dead! What should I do?"

The operator, in a calm soothing

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voice says, "Just take it easy and follow my instructions. First, let's make sure he's dead."

There is a silence..... and then a gun shot is heard. Joe comes back on the line :

"Okay, now what?"

Submitted by Betsy Cepielik

Thoughts

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

Every teenager should get a high school education. Even if they already know everything.