



LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

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A fond farewell to International Order of Runeberg 1920-2015



How can one say goodbye to such a wonderful organization, the International-Order of Runeberg, without a little fan fare? ...that is just what the membership of Vancouver Lodge #124 was wondering. And so it was decided that a celebration/farewell would be in order. You see, Vancouver was celebrating its 90th anniversary and what better way to pass this milestone than to have a party! Why not include the International with Lodge #124, marking the ending of one and the milestone of the other. So on March 28th, 2015, the Vancouver Lodge hosted a gala in honour of both the International closure and the 90th anniversary of the Order of Runeberg, Lodge #124, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

A great deal of planning and preparations were required. Invitations were prepared; charter members were noted and family members connected to the founders were contacted. Invitations went to all Runeberg members in any remaining lodges throughout the USA. The word was out.

Plans continued. The committee organized a pre-dinner happy hour with appetizers, a no-host bar, an elaborate smorgasbord, and a memorabilia display for all to peruse. Extensive attention was paid to table décor, flowers, chocolate favours, door prizes, wine at each table. Every detail was scrutinized in order to make the event a first-class affair.

As the evening progressed, out-of-town guests were introduced (of which there were many).

Supreme Board members attending were recognized and speeches were in abundance. **Annabelle Kergan** was presented with a past president's pin for service to the Supreme Board in 2006–2010. Members from the Vancouver Lodge were recognized for long-term membership and service. Eric Mara, Tor-Erik Rosback, Etel Rosback, Miia Kronholm, and Holger Stenfors were happy recipients. Any scholarship recipients from the past were asked to stand and be recognized. Throughout the evening, accordionist Hannu Lambert played background music. As an accomplished musician, he also entertained with special accordion music for the evening's program.

The event was, to say the least, a smashing success. It did feel celebratory as well as sad, but it is hoped that even though the International no longer binds us together, we can still maintain the international friendships that we have all enjoyed over these many years. It is my hope the connections we have

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Change

As you will notice when you look through this issue of the *Leading Star*, the word "International" is missing from the logos and other places where the Order of Runeberg is mentioned. We are entering a new era in our lives as lodges. Everyone is on their own, so to speak, but we still have the *Leading Star* as a common meeting place.

In order to be effective in continuing on as a family, we need your help as we put the paper together every three months. We need news from your lodges about what is going on. Send in whatever you can write, short or long, and we will edit it for the paper. Pictures are always a plus and even if you don't have a camera surely someone in your lodge does.

In this issue Tom Martin from Butte found a lot of articles

and pictures from days gone by of the Butte Lodge. He also sent out a questionnaire (which you could do) to some members to answer about their memories of the lodge.

We would encourage you to do the same so we can continue to share with one another about our lives and our culture.

—DH

A fond farewell to International Order of Runeberg

continued from page 1

made and the wonderful experiences that all the past events have afforded will continue. This will only be possible if we all contribute something of ourselves through the *Leading Star*.

A special thank you is extended to Stew Lyons, who has offered to be the caretaker of funding for the *Leading Star* as directed by the Board. A thank you, also, is extended to Dale Hjort for continuing to edit and publish. The success of the *Leading Star's* continuation will depend on all the remaining lodges willing to contribute something to each publication. I hope we can continue to keep in touch. Our strong connection to the Order of Runeberg is worth the effort.

For the good of the lodges remaining, I wish each, continuing good times and good memories.

Respectfully submitted,

Annabelle Kergan,

Member of Lodge #124, Vancouver, B.C.



The Leading Star is published quarterly by the Order of Runeberg for its members and others interested in the Order at 7682 Tracy Lane, La Palma, California 90623-1501.

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LODGE NEWS



History of Runeberg Lodge in Butte

Lodge #105

Butte, Montana

Historical Notes:

The benefit society “Stjarnan av Butte” was organized in 1904 with 15 members and the temperance society “Livets Allvar” followed on May 20, 1906, with 16 members. Both societies were over the years very active, each in its own field of endeavor. The temperance society built its own two-story hall, sponsored classes in English for newcomers, had a choir, a theater group and even a cooperative business.

These societies merged in 1920 and became Lodge# 105 OR with 194 members and a hall worth \$7,000. The lodge had for some time a drill team, a mixed choir, a club room for young people, and engaged for several decades in a variety of frequent social activities. The benefit functions of the lodge were for many years very important and expensive because of the high sickness and death rate of members who worked in the copper mines. But the lodge always kept solvent. High points in its history: Temperance Assn. Convention 1911, Benefit Assn. Convention 1919, Western District Convention 1941, and visit of Finland-Chorus in 1960. The membership was 157 in 1929, 168 in 1940, and 57 in 1966. Dave Newman, one among the very active members, served over the years in several positions as an officer in the Western District.



*Order of Rureberg Lodge #105
Butte, Montana, 1984*



*From Memorabilia of the
International Order of Runeberg 1898–1968*



LODGE NEWS



Butte, MT History: *Local Bodies to Consolidate*

Swedish-Finnish Temperance Society and Sick Benefit Association Decide to Merge: Will Elect Officers.

Merger of the Swedish-Finnish Temperance association and the Swedish-Finnish Sick Benefit association was decided upon at the first regular business session of the joint convention of the two bodies in Butte Thursday. The sessions are being held at the Swedish-Finnish Temperance hall, 625 East Galena Street. This was the principle business to be taken up at the convention and speedy action was taken. Ratification lies with the individual lodges, but, according to the officers, there is no doubt of their favorable action.

Merger of the two societies will give the new organization close to 6,000 members and property valued at upwards of \$150,000. This move has been in contemplation for some time. It was felt that one organization could accomplish more than two, doing virtually the same work.

Will Elect Officers.

Election of officers of the new organization will be held Saturday and after a social gathering on Sunday the delegates will return to their homes.

The officers and delegates present are:

President, John A. Forsman, Duluth, Minn.

Secretary, John S. Back, Escanaba, Mich.

Treasurer, Andrew Ostrand, Crystal Falls, Mich.

Marshall, Mrs. Mary Newman, Butte, Mont.

Trustees: J. R. Stolberg, Crystal Falls, Mich.; J. V. Jacobson, Iron-

wood, Mich. John Warnstrom, Negaunee, Mich.

Delegates: John Thors, Bessemer, Mich.; Lennart Villberg, Negaunee, Mich.; August Lithen, Crystal Falls, Mich.; John E. Rank, Ironwood, Mich.; Chas. H. Beck, Escanaba, Mich.; Ed Lindquist, John A. Anderson, Mrs. V. Forsander, Alfred Gustafson, Karl Nyman, Ella Johnson, William Mattson, Chas. Strom, John A. Gustafson, Dan Jacobson, Axel Lofquist, Butte; Mrs. Wendla Ohman, Iron Mountain, Mich.; Fred Martinson, Bingham, Utah; John Lundquist, Hibbing, Minn.; Edward Westerlund, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs.

John A. Forsman, Duluth, Minn.; John Sander, Eureka, Calif.; Maria Sander, Eureka, Calif.; Alfred Wicks, Seattle, Wash.; Erick A. Enegren, Ontonagon, Mich.; Emil Anderson, Superior, Wis.; Andrew Asplund, Waukegan, Ill.; William Sundblad, South Bend, Wash.; C. V. Frans, Manistique, Mich.; Chas. Carlson, Hoquium, Wash.; Alex Skog, Telluride, Colo.; Alorik Saderman, Astoria, Ore.; John E. Smith, Berkeley, Calif.; Matt Swede, Dollar Bay, Mich.

Delegate from the Swedish-Finnish Temperance association of America: Werner Johnson, Seattle, Wash.

Butte Society is Made Independent by Grocery

The clubhouse of the Swedish-Finnish Temperance Society at 625 East Galena Street.

Grocery stores support big families nowadays; why shouldn't one support our clubhouse?

From the answer that the members of the Swedish-Finnish Temperance Society received when they debated the question among themselves more than a year ago, a solution of its financial problems, unique in the history of church and benevolent societies all over the world, has been evolved.

For a little cash-and-carry neighborhood grocery store on the first floor of their clubhouse at 625 East Galena Street; owned and operated by the society on an ordinary commercial basis, has paid all the operating and maintenance expenses of the society's clubhouse, where nearly 300 young people find wholesome recreation, since it was started in September 1918.

Doesn't Owe a Cent.

That was the time that the society found that its last bill for the payment on the building could be burned, for every cent it owed on the comfortable little structure had been paid. Previous to that they had rented a part of the ground floor for a grocery store and employed a supervisor for their recreation rooms. The system they finally evolved provided that the supervisors, of whom there should be two, would manage both the clubrooms and the grocery store for an adequate salary and that the profits should go into the society treasury for the payment of salaries and the upkeep of the clubrooms.



LODGE NEWS



Butte Society is Made Independent by Grocery

After a year's trial members of the society are convinced of the success of the experiment, according to Mrs. Mary Newman, financial secretary of the organization, who also acts as supervisor of the grocery store. "We don't depend on members of the society alone for patronage of our grocery, for they live in widely scattered sections of the city," she said. "People of the neighborhood, however, have found it convenient and are especially generous in their support because they know the worthiness of the society that it helps maintain."

History of the Society.

It was away back in 1905 that a little group of men and women, the majority of them Swedish or Finnish birth or decent, realizing that their young people had no common meeting place for social diversion and that their boys and girls born in the old country had no chance to learn American customs and ideals except through intercourse with young men and women, native born, with whom they had a common meeting ground of language, decided that a society that would supply this lack would furnish solutions for the difficulty.

Four years later, with only \$90 as their capital, they purchased a lot and later erected a building on it. Going deeply into debt but through the earnest efforts of their members and money obtained through the rental of their meeting hall in the clubhouse and of space for a grocery store on the ground floor, finally succeeded in removing the final dollar of encumbrance in September 1918.

Center of Social Life.

Nearly 200 young people, members of the society, find the hall a center for their social activities. Upstairs is a cozy little dance hall equipped with a stage and scenery for the occasional presentation of plays. It is used as a meeting place for the societies on Sunday and frequently during the week is rented to other organizations. On the first floor in the rear of the grocery, is a billiard hall where members and their friends play billiards and pool at a cost sufficient only for the upkeep of tables and their equipment. Adjoining it is a long room provided with tables and chairs used as a library and reading room, but on occasion it can be converted

into a banquet hall, for at the rear a kitchen is conveniently located.

Before the Americanization school was established in Butte, classes in English were held in the clubhouse and classes, taught by Mrs. Mary Newman, financial secretary of the club, who came to this city when only seven years of age from Sweden, sometimes had as many as 60 members.

"The accusation that our people are clannish is unfair," she said. "They want to be with each other because they are uncomfortable with people whose language they do not understand or who do not understand theirs. Put yourself in their position. Do you think you would have a pleasant time if you went to a meeting of Swedish people and did not understand their language? Our club has been an active factor in Americanization, I believe, because it enables those who have not yet learned English to acquire the language by meeting with young people fully conversant with the speech and ideal of America and yet who also know the tongue of their parents' motherland."

The advent of prohibition, Mrs. Newman said, has not rendered the activity of the society in behalf of temperance unnecessary; for members of the organization have found that there is still much need for their work. Later it is planned that the society will merge with the Benevolent Aid Society, an insurance and protective order, at present closely affiliated with the Swedish-Finnish Temperance Society.

Christmas will be marked at the clubhouse with a gigantic Christmas tree celebration on the eve of the feast for the children, while on Christmas night an old-fashioned, Swedish feast, where the dishes considered holiday delicacies in the old country, will be served.

Officers of the society are:

President William Strom; vice president, William Matson; financial secretary, Mrs. Mary Newman; treasure, Charles Rusk; marshal, Edna Hall; agent, John S. Johns.

Taken from the *Butte Miner*, Aug. 15, 1919, newspaper archives in Butte.



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #105 Butte, MT *Remembrances*

My memories of the Butte Order of Runeberg Lodge #105 started when I was very young, in the mid-1940s. I think that my grandmother Elizabeth Oman was one of the earliest members of the Swedish-Finnish Temperance Society established in Butte in 1905. I remember going to the same building that was built in 1909 all of my pre-teen

Butte, Montana, OR Drill Team 1935



Bottom Row: *Emily Crooks, Ester Strom, Edith Murphy (captain), Elvira Oman, Elizabeth Oman*
Middle Row: *Hilma Harkins, Katherine Erickson, Sofe Backholm, Lena Svens, Maria Varn, Ann Walsh*

Top Row: *Ellen Mattson, Ida Duncan, Maria Finnas, Violet Qvale (musician), Linda Rusk, Signe Forsell, Alice Johnson.*

Butte Regional Bowling Champs



Regional Bowling Champs

Members of Butte Lodge 105, Order of Runeberg, the last weekend of the year, at the order's Northwest Telegraphic Regional Bowling tournament. The team score in the mixed handicap event was 2,685. Sixty-six teams from Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, California

and British Columbia competed. From the left the champions are: Nelo Wattula, Betty Klapan, Duane Nelson, Sumpter and Rik Hansen.

years. My grandmother Elizabeth Oman and my aunt Elvira Oman were members of the original Order of Runeberg drill team established in 1929, that I think went to National OR Convention in San Francisco in 1935.

I remember attending meetings at least once a month at the Runeberg hall. There were always many young kids there, including my cousins Robert, Roberta and Judy Sumpter. Their mother Ruth and grandmother Lena Svens were also members of the Drill Team. Lena was also one of the early members of the Temperance Society.

There were a lot of parties and dances held at the hall. I remember my sisters and all the other kids, and me running up the stairs and sliding down the banisters and chasing each other all around the building, while the old people were having their meetings or dances in the upstairs ballroom. We had many picnics at the Columbia Gardens and Washo Park in Anaconda. The lodge was a very fun part of my life as a kid.

My mom and my grandmother were lifelong members of the Order of Runeberg. My dad, Tom (Tanner), I'm sure, joined the lodge as soon as he and my mom (Ellen) were married. Both were very active and involved all their life.

Tom Martin

My best memories of the Butte Order of Runeberg are:

The great dinners, picnics and the meetings were interesting and fun. Met the great members and being President from 2000.

I joined the Lodge because and when:

My husband had passed away March 1971 and my friend Anita Nilson was a member of the Lodge and asked me if I would join the Lodge with my five children. We did in 1971.

What do you remember about the first meetings you attended and how many people were there:

We were initiated into the Lodge. Met some very nice members, some I already knew. I do not remember how many members were there, but there were quite a few.

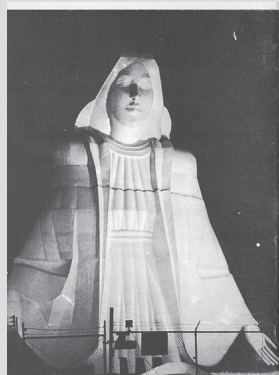
Pat McCabe



LODGE NEWS



Western District Convention 1985 Butte, Montana



OUR LADY OF THE ROCKIES
With Love to Mary, the Blessed Mother and to all Mothers
90 foot steel statue will stand at 3500 feet on the Continental Divide looking Butte - 8500 feet above sea level. Built with donations of 40,000 lbs. of steel and materials, this monument is dedicated toward bringing

WESTERN DISTRICT
CONVENTION 1985



July 24, 25, 26, 27



BUTTE, MONTANA



Eric Dahlbacka
President —
Western District

to Officers, Delegates, Members and Friends—

Once again we the members of Order of Runeberg are faced with an opportunity to meet and to remap the future for our Order. Some very fundamental issues have to be addressed and some drastic measures must be taken to save our Order. As individuals we cannot accomplish enough to make much difference, as a group of dedicated and responsive members, I know that a lot can be done.

We must bear in mind that the world is changing at an unbelievable pace; anything or anyone that is incapable or unwilling of adapting to new ways and new ideas is going to be by the wayside.

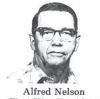
In order to save our organization, we must find more appealing and timely reasons for our existence. The needs of our organization were built on and served us so well, are in the past. Today we live in a new world, with new needs to which we must adapt. The past is gone, we must look to the future, as is running short.

Fraternal
Eric Dahlbacka
President — Western District

WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICERS



Doug Hansen
Past President



Alfred Nelson
First Vice President



Anita Nilson
2nd Vice President & Trustee



Margo Westerlund
Secretary



Paula Rex
Treasurer



Carolyn Phillips
Trustee

**Greetings and
Best Wishes for a
Successful Convention**

San Francisco
Order of Runeberg No. 104

Greetings From
Order of Runeberg No. 129
Port Angeles, Washington

Greetings from Hoquiam
Lodge No. 110

For a Most Successful Convention

Gen. Chairman & Committee Heads

Publicity: Jean Pollack
Ellen Martin
Tom Martin

Welcoming & Hospitality:
Mabel Carlson
Cecil Nichols
Lorraine Williams

Booklet:

Decorations:

Housing:

Entertainment:

Ways & Means:

Registration:

Transportation:

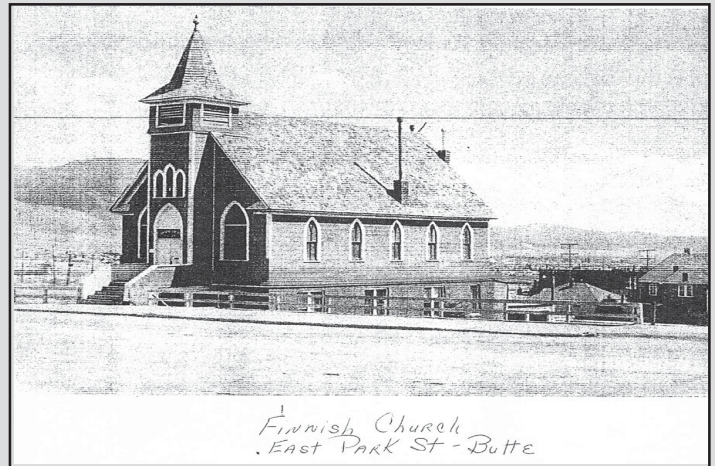


Tom Martin

Ellen & Tom Martin
Jean Pollack
Anita Nilson
Pat McCabe
Shirley Budd
Anita Frankovich
Ellen Martin
Donna Hutchins
Jean Pollack
Ellen & Tom Martin
Anita Nilson
Jean Pollack
Tom & Ellen Martin
Jean & Clarence Pollock
Evelyn Witt
Mary Lou Kornec
Nelo Wattala
Clarence Pollock
Tom Martin

The General Chairman wishes to thank all of you and your workers on these committees for all the fine work you have done.

Finnish Church, East Park St., Butte



Finnish Church
East Park St - Butte

My best memories of the Butte Order of Runeberg are:

- Picnics at the Columbia Gardens when I was very young.
- Picnics at Washoe Park in Anaconda.
- Going to visit Thelma Strum as a toddler with my mother.
- Nelo's smiling face as he played with all the kids at the lodge meetings.
- The old original hall in Butte, and how it appeared so large when I was a small child.
- Dunking for apples at the Halloween party.
- My father playing Santa Claus at the Gloria Dei hall.
- Bingo night with the bingo cage and using lima beans to mark the bingo cards.
- My daughter getting a scholarship from the lodge to attend college.

I joined the lodge because and when:

- I joined the lodge in 1968.
- My father and mother took me to the lodge when I was young. I also attended Christmas parties, Halloween parties and picnics and always enjoyed them.

What do you remember about the first meetings you attended and how many people were there:

- Don't remember the first meetings I attended very well as I was a toddler. I do remember the president of the lodge using the gavel and striking it on the table to get everyone's attention and start the meeting.

Dave Murto



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington



Our home on 134th Street in Vancouver, Washington. We will be ready to move pretty soon up to Olympia, year 2002.



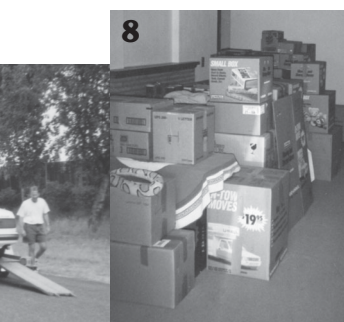
The swimming pool was filled in at Gudmunssons 2003

A letter remembering days gone by

Dear Dale and Mary Lou Hjort,
I'm enclosing a letter to you that Jim and I had received in June 2003—the "Senior Messenger" it was called. Both Jim and I enjoyed reading the "Senior Messenger" and all the interesting articles.

Very soon our family will be moving out of Clark County where we have made our home for 48 years and raised our four children. Jim worked at Fort Vancouver Plywood for many years—night shift and day shift. His father, Cliff Agnew, encouraged Jim and saw to it that Jim became a stockholder in the Fort Vancouver Mill. In 1965 Jim

and I began to think about doing something special, to see about having a tour of Europe. Jim had been in Korea, but this was different. Jim looked into buying a Volkswagen bus from Seattle, Washington. All of us would have room in the VW bus—so, to make a long story short, we decided to tour Europe. Our VW bus was shipped to Hamburg, Germany, and a tent was hooked on the bus with a huge zipper closing it up and posts that held the tent up. We did our own cooking. Well, this took place in 1966 and we saw many different countries.





LODGE NEWS



Showing the back of our home. It's on the way. It will be waiting to be hauled up the hill across from Gapsch's 2003



Our home on 134th Street has been moved up on the hill across from Gapsch's Year 2005

David and Bill helped their dad and "Mamma Marita" did the cooking while my husband Jim rested after all the driving. We saw 11 different countries, which also included Nykarleby, Oravais, Sweden, and Jim learned to speak Swedish pretty good. Our little girls, Kathleen and Karlyn, were only 5 years and 2½ years of age (She turned 3 in Norway.).

However, due to many changes in the area, the time had come to return to Puget Sound. They call it progress. A hospital will be built just across

the canyon and where we had 2–3 weddings outside and where we danced in our basement. That was so much fun. We—Jim and I—stood under the birch tree from Finland (Oravais) when it was our 25th wedding anniversary—and where the folkdancers from Oravais, Vora and other places came. Exchange students that we housed for a year and much more.

So I'll close for now and hope all is well. Yes, I'm still the president of Tacoma Lodge for now.

Marita Gustafson Agnew

CAPTIONS: Down the side

1• Mamma and Daddy; We will be ready to move up to Olympia, Washington, pretty soon. Karlyn Rachel Agnew was born Sept. 8, 1963. Baby Karlyn and Sister Kathleen. Brother Bill and Brother David.

2• Vancouver, Washington, 2306 N.E. 134th Street. This was the wall in our small kitchen.

3• Our dining room at 2306 N.E. 134th Street, Vancouver, Wash.

4• Our guest room upstairs at 2306 N.E. 134th Street in Vancouver, Washington Year 2003

5• The "Bond Pion" from Sweden was dug up in Vancouver, Washington, and Now it's on our porch here in Olympia, Wash., in a container. It will be planted in the back of our home.

CAPTIONS: Across the bottom

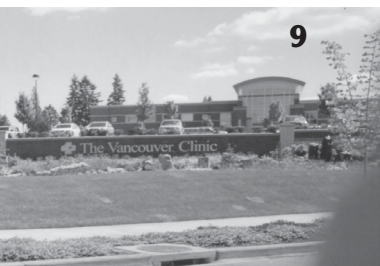
6• "Mamma Marita" is closing the door for the very last time 2003 at 2306 N.E. 134th Street, Vancouver, Wash.

7• The U-haul trucks are ready to take us up to Olympia and we will be living on Sweetbrier Loop S.E. in the Village of Union Mills.

8• Every box is labeled and everything is in the driveway the following morning. Mrs. Hathaway came over to visit with us and say goodbye to our home on 14th Street. Year 2003

9• The Vancouver Clinic that came across from 134th Street and the freeway Aug. 26, '08

10• The newly built hospital 2014





LODGE NEWS



Lodge #205 New Haven, CT “St. Urho’s Day” Celebration

Everyone had a good time at our annual “St. Urho’s Day” celebration, on March 14th. The celebration included a potluck dinner, reciting the “Ode to St. Urho”, songs by member Roy Kosonen and good conversation at Glenn and Sandy’s home.

Our hosts, Glenn and Sandy, did a wonderful job decorating for the St. Urho’s Day celebration—purple, green, and grasshoppers everywhere! We had a good turnout of members, including Pekka Rentof, who travels all the way from Manhattan, NY, to attend our meetings!

All the potluck appetizers, dinner, and dessert items were delicious. After a short business meeting, Roy Kosonen led the group in reciting the “Ode to St. Urho” and then Roy sang two songs: (1) “Veteran’s Evening Call” (Veteraanin iltahuuto), & (2) “A Cossack Rode Over the Danube”, sung in Ukrainian. The pictures accompanying this article may be seen in color at New Haven Lodge’s St. Urho’s Day web page: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/l2052015sturho.html>.

Also on this page are the videos of Roy singing the above mentioned songs.

Stew Lyons



Lodge members enjoying the potluck dinner and St. Urho Day celebrations at the home of our hosts, Glenn & Sandy Havumaki.



L-R: Inke, Dottie, Peter, & Kaarina all enjoying the dinner and good conversation.



LODGE NEWS



L-R: Liisa, Klas, Eric, Roy, Lise, Tuula, Doug, and Glenn enjoying the dinner and good conversation.



Our Lodge #205 St. Urho grasshopper. In addition to its green lights, it is motorized - the motor moves the wings up & down. The grasshopper comes out every St. Urho's Day and is placed on the front lawn, or entryway, of the St. Urho's Day celebration host's home.

The grasshopper was donated to our lodge by the Britt family many years ago.



Gourmet selection of appetizers, vegetables, salads, and desserts – thank you to all our members for their contributions to the gourmet selections!



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #124 Vancouver, B.C., Canada (more photos next issue)



Hard working members, Tor-Erik Rosback, Etel Rosback and Eric Mara proudly accepting their award for long and distinguished service to Lodge #124 Vancouver, B.C.



90 years ago, Anna and Charles Peterson became Charter members of the Order of Runeberg, Lodge #124, Vancouver B.C. On March 28th, 2015 three generations have followed as members – Annabelle Kergan with her two children Todd Kergan and Michelle Kienzle-also Linden Kienzle (10 yrs) and Martina Kienzle (8 yrs). Missing - Ella and Emma Kergan.



Shea Teixeira is acknowledged as our Editor-in-Chief of the OR TOPICS - The local Lodge #124 Lodge newspaper. The copy is printed 4 times a year and has been in circulation for many years. Lorene Mara was pleased to introduce Shea at the party.



Ed Brannfors, Treasurer - International, and Tacoma Lodge members bringing Anniversary Greetings to the party!



Joanne Mamaril, a distant member, who travelled from Edmonton Alberta to attend the festivities, shares a smile or two with Corinne Teixeira a third generation member of the Order of Runeberg.



Resolutions

Lodge #124 Vancouver, B.C., Canada

May 7, 1937–April 26, 2015

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of our lodge sister,

Nora Elizabeth (nee Nyfors) Roufosse,

after a brief battle with cancer. She was predeceased by her parents, Victor and Elna Nyfors, and her brother Boo.

Nora will be remembered and forever missed by her husband Lawrence of almost fifty-six years. Nora and Lawrence were blessed with three

sons and seven grandchildren. She was a proud grandmother and doted on her brood.

Nora enjoyed the outdoors, holidays in the sun and dragon boat racing. She was a Runeberg member for ten years. If you happened to know her, you were lucky. She will be missed by all.

Resolution Committee



We are sad to tell you that Dorothy Belle Bergquist passed away May 17, 2015, at the Columbia Lutheran Home in Seattle, Washington. Dorothy had enjoyed living at the Norse Home in Seattle, Washington, for the past two years until she fell the prior week. Dorothy was a devout Lutheran having sung in her beloved Luther Memorial Church for over fifty years.

Dorothy lived in her own home at 12204 Palatine Avenue North in Seattle for about 60 years. Dorothy was married in Butte, Montana, in May 1942, and was widowed from her beloved husband, Roy V. Bergquist in 1977. They became residents of Seattle, Washington, in 1946. The Dorothy that we knew was a loving mother, a generous friend to everyone and also gave everyone a quick smile. She was very involved with her family and friends and accordingly so many people have wonderful memories about her on many occasions.

Born on June 17, 1918, in Ashland, Wisconsin, Dorothy was the youngest in the family.

At nearly 97 years old she was last survivor of the eight children of John and Anna Bloomquist. Her parents were Swedish emigrants who came to America from Finland about 1896. Her father, John, was born as Erik Johan Jakobsson in 1874 on the Träsk farm in Munsala,

Finland. Her mother, Anna, was born in 1875 as Anna Louisa Gustavsdotter on the Böös farm in Jeppo, Finland. Dorothy will be missed by her children Jill, Candace, and Richard and daughter-in-law Kathy as well as her eight grandchildren and her great grandchildren and her many friends and extended family relations.

Dorothy was very involved with the Runeberg Chorus for many years, having visited Sweden and Finland on two separate singing trips with the Chorus. She had a lovely singing voice and always had kind words for everyone. It is our prayer that Heaven's Gates will be held widely opened for her and welcomed by the Lord.

A memorial service for Dorothy was held at 1 p.m. at the Luther Memorial Church in Seattle, Washington, on June 6, 2015.

Love from the family,
Dick Bergquist

Genealogy Corner

Fiddler Gusta

How well I remember him, the tall fiddler with his violin. He had an unusually long face with a respectable nose, permanently filled with snuff which, from habit, was periodically transferred from the snuffbox to his nose. I cannot say I ever saw him laugh but glee filled the faces of the dancers on the dance floor. He didn't talk much; but always played willingly and never tired of playing.

Generation after generation saw his bow dance as they waltzed away with a young heart and hopped to his polkas in frenzied youthful delight. When he was called on to play for some occasion, one could hear him in his corner as he played his polonaise. They questioned whether a dance should start with a polonaise. Gustaf thought it had a fine tone which met approval from the old folks. He sat in his modest nook and played long into the night, and the old heads nodded in approval. Though he seemed half asleep the passage continued with a vigorous hand in time to the music



June Pelo
A Dedicated Genealogist

and the beat was always maintained.

Such was Fiddler Gusta. He was a rare country fiddler who understood how to handle a violin. In our country as well as in Sweden, this instrument has unfortunately been displaced by the concertina.

Henrik Gustaf Hellund was born 12 Nov. (Jan.) 1825 in Skutnäs village in Pedersöre parish. "Lill-Gust" (as he was called) was the same as all other boys, but early on showed his musical talent. That was when he showed an interest in the violin of his brother who was four years older. His first violin was made of sawmill sail and was kept in the sawmill. There the 6 year old played. It was inferior, but adequate. Then Gusta had a chance to play on a regular violin belonging to clockmaker Alenius. Gusta taught himself diligently because the desire was great. He learned the technique from an old caretaker Vinsten who used to play music at dances and later

from music teacher Gestrin "Stråka-Jobb", who was employed at Jakobstad high school.

Gusta yearned to become an expert, but funds were lacking. So with what he could procure at home and to move forward in his life, Gusta became a country fiddler. At age 14 he debuted at his brother's party for a large farm wedding, and then it was from wedding to wedding, from dance to dance. The fiddling brothers appeared everywhere with polkas and waltzes trilling endlessly from their violins and the bones seemed to jump in everyone.

At age 21 he married an 18-year-old farmer's daughter, Bata Lena Bagarnäs, born 21 July 1829. They obtained a farm and land in Pedersöre church village, but Gusta had no desire to be a farmer. Bata Lena presented Gusta with four girls; she died 14 July 1860. She inherited consumption from her family, and all her daughters died later of this sickness.

Left with four small girls, Gusta thought he should give them a new mother, but he could not force himself to remarry. So he stayed home, but when he tended to business outside the house the picture of his beloved wife stood before him so clearly that he could not possibly allow another to take her place. Such love is rare among country people and people thought that

Gusta felt he was a little superior of the country people. So he plodded along with his small children and asked one of his sisters to help them at home.

After his wife's death the fiddler became grave, sober-minded and pietist. Sheet music was burned up and the violin sat in the attic. But it came down soon again and with his dear comrade under his arm, Gusta again went from wedding to wedding and from dance to dance. Never particular of his own comfort, he was always ready, when and where he was needed. Naturally, the violin brought in money and such needs as necessary. However during the last two years of his life, Gusta didn't play any more. He thought it was sinful to lure the young people to see life through the eyes of an old man.

Gusta died 28 October 1893 following a stroke that had affected him a few weeks before and left him speechless, a moment after returning home from church where he had received Holy Communion. On 9 November the burial service was solemnly read over him in Pedersöre church in the presence of family and friends from the city and parish.

Fiddler Gusta was a typical Östrobothnian, calm, ordinary, unaffected, industrious, thrifty, sincere, and God-fearing. In his conduct he was tactful, never offended anyone and observed what he said when he came in contact with people. Perhaps it should be mentioned that Gusta supported Jakobstad's residents by serving with another skill

other than fiddler, namely barber.

Lastly, some words of Gustaf's violin. He bought it from some merchant in Jakobstad for 7 rubels. At one time he was offered 500 marks for it by a Viborg resident but he didn't sell it because he needed it for an evening's entertainment in the city. Then the workers at a tobacco factory started a horn band and he fretted that he didn't receive an invitation. He was willing to give up the violin for 100 marks, but got no buyer.

The bandmaster Westerlind visited Jakobstad once and Gusta went to him with his instrument to get his opinion of it. The bandmaster said it was good for its type but to show Gusta a decent violin, he took his own costly instrument and played a concert for Gusta. Gusta was a little proud of his ability, but here he met his match. It was related that he later could have said "people used to call me Fiddler-Gusta, but now I think they could call me Pingel Janne." Pingel Janne was a well-known, feeble-minded beggar from Vasa who went around the farms in Jakobstad with his little concertina, playing the same two tunes. Surely, Gusta could have become more than a country fiddler if he had received advice and the possibility for training.

Ester Lauren

Rewritten 21 Mar 1973 by
Paul Andersson

From Släkt-och Bygd # 17
English translation by

June Pelo

Finnspiration

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