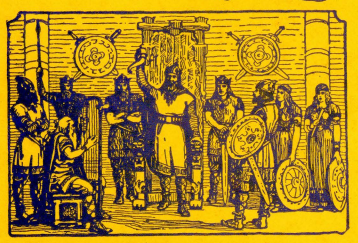
Forska som om du skulle leva evigt!
Lev som om du skulle dö i morgon!

VIKINGEN



Vol. 42. MOUNT MORRIS, ILL., OCT., 1940. No. 10.



Golden Jubilee Number

1890-1940

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF VIKINGS
INCORP. NOV. 30. 1893
ORGANIZED JUNE 2. 1890

UNITED WE STAND

DIVIDED WE FALL

024.10.2

VIKINGEN

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ERIK THULIN, Editor, 157 East Ohio St., Chicago, Ill. Telephone Whitehall 7199.

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Independent Order of Vikings.



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE GRAND LODGE

for the term 1939-1941.



Front row, from left: Esther Nelson, Erik Thulin, Grand Secretary, John Klingstedt, Grand Chief, Algot Land, Vice Grand Chief, Allen Johnson, Grand Treasurer, and Irma Bruce Evans.

Second row: C. Henry Widegren, John Pearson, John A. Linden, Attorney, Eric Larson, Gust Mattson, and Arvid Benson.

Third row: Arthur Benson, John Larson, Claus Olson, and Waldemar Carlson.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF VIKINGS

1890] — [1940

By JOHN A. LINDEN
Grand Chief 1910



FOUNDERS OF SOCIETY VIKINGARNE.

Standing: R. Wallden, Aug. Johnson, N. Hallers, Chas. Henry, V. Meurling.
Seated: Chas. Carlson, Gust Johnson, Ed. Meurling, C. H. Viktorin, G. A. Carlson, Aug. Wallden.

Foreword

CHICAGO, the Metropolis of the West, had become a Mecca for Swedish immigration almost from the city's incorporation, which occurred March 4, 1837, and in the decade which followed, pioneers of Swedish stock began arriving in the young settlement on the shores of the beautiful Lake Michigan. These settlers chose the north side of the city, which designation had been given to that part located immediately north of the main channel of the river, east of its north branch and west of the Lake.

In this section we find the Swedish element and it was here that Swedish community life was centered, churches erected and the first of the Swedish fraternal societies, Svea, was founded. Through the years which followed, more and more immigrants from the homeland arrived and soon other Swedish sections sprang up, but the north side settlement continued at all times to be the greatest attraction and so remained as the chief center of our forerunners. The immigration from Sweden had been very heavy, in fact, at an all-time peak, during the decade of the 80s, and it is not to be wondered that this section should contain young men of advanced thought and foresight.

The fraternal societies, then existent, were all independent and had to rely on their own limited resources, and on a system which these youths deemed antiquated and out of step with the advancing thoughts and ideas of the times. While these societies paid sick benefit and funeral aid, this latter aid was raised by the levy of an assessment on all its members of an equal amount regardless of the age of the donor. This system was deemed to be limited in its duration and could not build for a permanent future.

As the spring of the year 1890 arrived to cast its warmth and cheerfulness over the city, we find these youths flocking to the parks and the lake shore of the city. In these groups were found the organizers of our Order. Thrown together in a land with a language and customs strange to them, it is not surprising that they found joy and comfort in one another's company. A companionship sprang up which made true fellows of these sons of the homeland. First we find them organizing a reading circle for their intellectual advancement and then the organization of the fraternal society "Vikingen" which later led to the "Independent Order of Vikings."

* * *

First Decade, 1890-1899

WITH the advent of the year 1890, the Swedish north side community was firmly established north of Chicago Avenue. The youths who had become banded together in friendship and companionship thought the time ripe to launch a fraternal organization in order to aid one another in sickness and need, as well as to render a last service to a departed fellow and friend. Under the spreading elm trees of the little Washington Square on Clark Street, south of Oak Street, these gatherings had been held during warm spring evenings, and it was there that their ideas took root. The little band organized themselves into a society which was christened "Vikingarne," which in time became the "Independent Order of Vikings." A rather inauspicious beginning for the mighty order which we now so highly esteem, after fifty years. But "from small acorns, mighty oak trees grow," so with the seed of fraternalism so soundly planted by these pioneers, which culminated into a first organization meeting within four walls, on June 2, 1890.

After fifty years, we, who now stand at the helm of our Order, like to think of Ed J. Meurling and C. W. Meurling; C. J. Carlson and G. A. Carlson; A. J. Wallden and R. Wallden; G. E. Johnson; Charles H. Viktorin; Charles Henry; N. Hallers and August Johnson, as those who laid the corner stone on which succeeding generations have built. It was not long before others of the colony sought membership, and the roster of these early days include the names of the most prominent of the Swedish element of the north side, namely: P. G. Almberg, Gust Myhrman, Henry Johnson, Emil Olson, John Landin and many others.

Soon after the advent of the new year, the thought of a permanent existence and right to the classic name already chosen began to take form, and a charter was applied for and granted by the Secretary of State. The newly formed society now began an active campaign for members and during the first six months of the year 1891, the surprising total of 234 candidates were accepted.

The Swedish societies of Chicago had organized a central committee for the raising of funds with which to erect a monument of some prominent Swede. Carl von Linné was chosen, and a reproduction of the famous statue erected to his memory in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, was procured. The dedication of this statue took place in Lincoln Park on May 23, 1891, and Chicago's Swedish element turned the day into a Swedish-American holiday. All societies participated in the parade preceding the dedication ceremony, and it was on this occasion that the unknown society "Vikingen" made its first public appearance under flying banners and tuneful music. The "youngsters" surprised those assembled when the prizes were distributed, as they had captured first prize for the largest representation.

At a meeting on December 12, 1891, it was first suggested that the name "Vikingarne" be changed to "Independent Order of Vikings." The change was completed May 28, 1892, and a new charter was granted by the Secretary of State under this new name. Perhaps the most active member for this change was none other than Otto Anderson, who was then Recording Secretary of the society and later served as Grand Secretary of the Order. He is now serving as Secretary of the "Veteran Vikings" group. Still active for the advancement of the Order and its fraternal principles, this graying veteran has won the admiration of all who have made his acquaintance.

As the year 1892 drew to a close, the society proudly claimed a membership of about 500, and was considered ripe for the fulfillment of an earlier purpose, namely, the branching out and organization of lodges in other localities, held together by a Grand Lodge. At a meeting of the parent society on September 10, 1892, a delegation of 12 members was appointed for the purpose of organizing this Grand Lodge. These delegates were Alex Holm, Charles H. Viktorin, Alfred Carlson, P. A. Noren, Gustaf A. Carlson, A. M. Soderlin, Gust Johnson, N. P. Glimborg, Otto Anderson, Frank Lind, Gust Bird and August Wallden. These men formed the first "Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Vikings" and the first meeting was held on October 3, 1892.

So in a period of slightly more than two years, the acorn planted in Washington Square had become a sizeable oak tree, spreading its protecting branches from its main trunk in all directions. This "main trunk" was, of course, the original society *"Vikingarne,"* which under the corporate set-up of the "Grand Lodge" had become subordinate *Lodge No. 1* and retained its original corporate name of *"Vikingarne."* This lodge held its meetings in the First Swedish Odd Fellows hall located at 120 E. Chicago Avenue, which building is still standing, and is now known as 357 W. Chicago Avenue. It continued to meet there until

PAST GRAND CHIEFS

Twenty-five years ago, at the silver jubilee celebration in Medinah Temple, all the Past Grand Chiefs of the Order were presented with an emblem symbolizing the honored place attained. Since then, every retiring Grand Chief is presented with a similar emblem at the banquet which follows the Grand Lodge meeting.

Shortly after the silver jubilee celebration, these retired helmsmen organized themselves into a group and called it the "Past Grand Chiefs' Club," the purpose being to retain the memories of the past; to draw on their store of experience and understanding of the Order for its development; to visit lodges and aid in furthering the advancement and growth of the Order.

Every retiring Grand Chief automatically becomes a member of this group. The office of "Jarl" is filled through seniority, whereas the other offices are filled by elections. During this Golden Jubilee year, the officers are Sexton Bruce, Jarl; Gust Westerberg, Vice Jarl; John A. Linden, Secretary; Allen Johnson, Treasurer; and Axel Sax, Sergeant at Arms.

John A. Linden.

We present on this and following pages Past Grand Chiefs 1892-1940.



Alex Holm
Admitted to membership of Vikingarne No. 1, June 24, 1891. Grand Chief 1892-'93 and 1898. Deceased



Gustaf A. Carlson
Admitted to membership of Vikingarne No. 1, June 2, 1890. Grand Chief 1894. Deceased.



Alfred Carlson
Admitted to membership of Vikingarne No. 1, March 24, 1891. Grand Chief 1895-'96-'97. Deceased



Eric Forsell
Admitted to membership of Vikingarne No. 1, December 26, 1895. Grand Chief 1899.

GRAND CHIEFS 1892-1940



Axel Borg

Admitted to membership of Brage No. 2, February 16, 1896. Grand Chief 1900. Deceased.



Adolf W. Johnson

Admitted to membership of Brage No. 2 ,October 24, 1892. Grand Chief 101-'02 and 1915. Deceased.



Herman Carlson

Admitted to membership of Frithiof No. 6, October 14, 1899. Grand Chief 1903-'04. Deceased.



Frithiof Malmquist

Admitted to membership of Brage No. 2, January 27, 1901. Grand Chief 1905-'06-'07-'08-'09. Deceased.



John A. Linden

Admitted to membership of Frithiof No. 6, July 17, 1904. Grand Chief 1910.



Elis E. Edholm

Admitted to membership of Ivar No. 27, August 24, 1906. Grand Chief 1911.



Elias Olson

Admitted to membership of Vikingarne No. 1, April 2, 1896. Grand Chief 1912. Deceased.



Henry Nordholm

Admitted to membership of Brage No. 2, June 28, 1900. Grand Chief 1913. Deceased.

the year 1910 when it abandoned its citadel on the old north side and moved to the newly completed "Viking Temple," erected by the strong and progressive Brage Lodge No. 2, at Sheffield Avenue and School Street, where it has ever since held its meetings.

Had it not been for the unselfish spirit of this parent lodge and its foresighted members, this sacrifice would not have been made, and selfish motives would have prevailed. "Vikingarne" could have proudly boasted that it was America's largest Swedish fraternal society. On the contrary, we now see this lodge sending forth its members to spread the gospel of true fraternalism on a wide plan, making for solidarity and certainty, and would assure that greatest of all fraternal activities, namely, life insurance. It would also guarantee its prompt payment to the bereaved family whenever Odin should see fit to call the breadwinner away from his loved ones. These ideals and principles would be best assured and guaranteed by the collection of assessments from persons living in different sections of the country, thereby avoiding the dangers of pestilence or epidemic making inroads in the membership ranks and endangering the very fundamentals of a fraternal society.

As the Grand Lodge, created by the parent society "Vikingarne," now "Vikingarne Lodge No. 1," was authorized and empowered to organize subordinate lodges, this work was embraced with enthusiasm, expectant from these youths. Almost at once an application was received from a group of northsiders for a charter and the organization of a subordinate lodge. This application was granted by the Grand Lodge and on October 17, 1892, the first link in the now long chain of subordinate lodges was welded. The lodge chose the name *"Brage"* and became *Lodge No. 2.* The place of meeting chosen by Brage was Locust and Townsend Streets, north of Chicago Ave., which latter street was the home location of the parent lodge. It was splendid evidence that no fear or jealousy that the field would be endangered by this competition was entertained. Not long after its organization, Brage found its first home too small. In February, 1893, it moved to Phoenix Hall on Division and Sedgwick Streets, only one half mile north of the home of the parent lodge, where it continued to grow in numerical strength and financial resources until the year 1910, when it moved to its own building, "Viking Temple," at Sheffield Avenue and School Street.

The first delegates chosen by this lodge to the Grand Lodge were Alfred Oberg and Gustaf Ahlenius, who, together with the delegates from Vikingarne Lodge No. 1, met on November 2, 1892, and elected the first staff of officers for the Grand Lodge, with Alex Holm as the first Grand Chief.

Having assured themselves of the north side field by having one lodge on the south rim of the Swedish settlement and one on its north side, the officers of the Grand Lodge began a survey of other Swedish districts, with the object of organizing subordinate lodges.

The first district selected for this purpose was Lake View, which had, a few years previous, been annexed to the City of Chicago, so why not annex it to the Order? No sooner said than done. Work was commenced in the territory bisected by Belmont Ave. and Clark St. This section had seen a sizeable influx



C. E. Kronlof

Admitted to membership of Frithiof No. 6, March 28, 1906. Grand Chief 1914. Deceased.



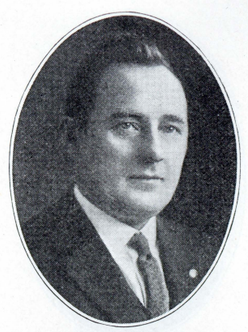
Oscar Hanson

Admitted to membership of Ivar No. 27, November 20, 1908. Grand Chief 1916.



Gustaf F. Carlson

Admitted to membership of Drake No. 3, December 16, 1909. Grand Chief 1917. Deceased.



Arvid Benson

Admitted to membership of Vikingarne No. 1, December 2, 1909. Grand Chief 1918.



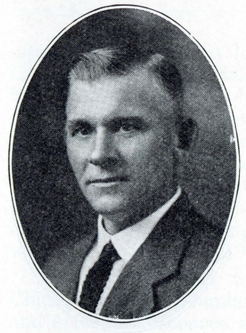
Erik Thulin

Admitted to membership of Götha No. 14, September 19, 1912. Grand Chief 1919.



Albert Holmberg

Admitted to membership of Hjalmar No. 23, November 19, 1905. Grand Chief 1920. Deceased.



John H. Nelson

Admitted to membership of Ivar No. 27, January 27, 1909. Grand Chief 1921. Deceased.



Carl R. Olsen

Admitted to membership of Progressive No. 49, June 23, 1916. Grand Chief 1922.

of Swedes from the old north side and it did not take long before their efforts were crowned with success and a lodge was formed. On March 28, 1893, a charter was issued by the Grand Lodge to the third link in the chain of subordinate lodges and the name selected was *"Drake."* The first place of meeting was Spelz Hall, Clark and Fletcher Streets. Later this lodge moved to Well's Hall, across the street from its first meeting place, where meetings were continued until the year 1910. Drake lodge then moved to the Viking Temple at Sheffield Avenue and School Street, where it still holds its meetings. The first representative sent to the Grand Lodge was P. Anderson.

Having covered the field in the north, our pioneer fathers turned their attention to the south side of the city. They began their labors in the territory around Wentworth Avenue and 31st Street, which at that time was the center of the south side Swedish colony. After a short, lightning-like campaign, the required number of charter members had been signed up and on April 7, 1893, a charter was granted to *Angantyr Lodge No. 4.* The new lodge selected as its first Grand Lodge delegate Nils L. Anderson. The Order was now beginning to win acclaim outside of its original territory and further reconnaissance of southern fields was undertaken.

This reconnaissance led to the exploitation of the South Chicago field, a district which was best known because of its large and busy steel mills. At these mills employment had been furnished to a large numbe of our countrymen, who, in consequence, had taken up their abode and established their homes in this territory. Rapid and energetic work bore fruit with the result that the fifth link of our chain was welded within six weeks after the fourth link. The officers of the young Grand Lodge installed *Frej Lodge No. 5* in Linnea Hall on May 17, 1893. This lodge hall was located at the corner of Buffalo and 84th Streets, where Frej continued its meetings for many years, within a block of the main entrance of the then Illinois Steel Mills, where so many of the original 47 charter members had found employment. John W. Anderson was chosen as the first representative to the Grand Lodge from Frej. This lodge now meets in the K. of P. Hall at 3012 East 79th Place.

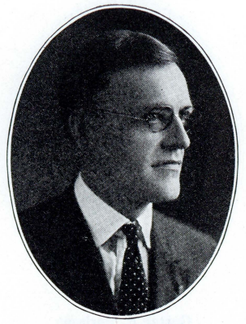
Further progress was checked by hard times, now referred to as "depression." During 1893, Chicago had been host to the world and had entertained thousands of visitors at its famous World's Fair or Columbian Exposition. This Fair typified the spirit of Chicago. Slightly more than 20 years previous thereto, the city had been devastated by the "Chicago Fire" which undoubtedly was the largest conflageration America has ever seen. Out of the ashes rose a new city imbued with the spirit of "I Will." In Jackson Park there arose the greatest and most beautiful world's fair that the world has ever seen and perhaps will ever see, as the modern day civic mind does not seem to possess the altruistic view point that the leaders of this earlier period possessed. The country at large was in the throes of a depression but Chicago, thanks to its Exposition and countless visitors, enjoyed an incomparable prosperity.

But with the close of the Exposition, depression crept up speedily and in a short time fastened its fangs onto Chicago's industries, business and commerce, un-



Sexton Bruce

Admitted to membership of Drake No. 3, November 17, 1904. Grand Chief 1923.



Gustave E. Carlson

Admitted to membership of Brage No. 2, November 22, 1914. Grand Chief 1924.



Gustaf Westerberg

Admitted to membership of Elida No. 25, August 26, 1914. Grand Chief 1925.



Felix Johnson

Admitted to membership of Brage No. 2, July 6, 1917. Grand Chief 1926.



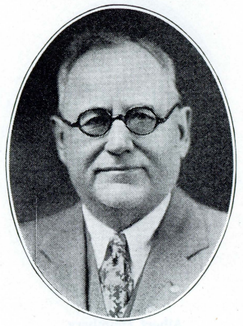
George R. Swanson

Admitted to membership of Frithiof No. 6, July 27, 1910. Grand Chief 1927.



John G. Swanson

Admitted to membership of Ring No. 18, April 15, 1909. Grand Chief 1928.



Swan Larson

Admitted to membership of Björn No. 20, February 26, 1905. Grand Chief 1929. Deceased.



Allen Johnson

Admitted to membership of Drake No. 3, April 20. 1905. Grand Chief 1930.

til the population, almost to a man, was jobless and later homeless. As a consequence further organization work had to be discontinued and the established lodges struggled to continue their existence. But imbued with that indomitable spirit of our forefathers to conquer and knowing that only the weak fall in the struggle for existence, a fight existed to retain what had been won and accomplished in the more prosperous days. The depression continued until relief came in the year 1896, when the chimneys of the factories mills and industrial plants began to emit smoke and the wheels of industry began to rotate. The dawn of a new day was at hand and Chicago again resumed its prosperous manner of living. And so with our organizers. At first, efforts were directed towards strengthening the existing lodges and then a new campaign of oranization followed.

In the fall of 1899, members of Vikingarne Lodge No. 1 and Brage Lodge No. 2, residing in the district known as Cuyler, deemed the time ripe to organize a lodge in the part of Chicago centering around Lincoln Avenue and Irving Park Road. On October 14, 1899, this sixth link was forged under the name of *Frithiof Lodge No. 6,* in Heims Hall, where this lodge continued its meetings for many years, but now holds meetings in Hagelin Hall, Ashland and Foster Avenues. So after a stretch of six years of forced inactivity, our pioneers were again in full motion and organization work was resumed. Frithiof Lodge chose Herman Carlson as its first delegate to the Grand Lodge.

Having organized this northern outpost, the eyes of the Grand Lodge were again turned south, where a fruitful field was discovered in the territory around Wentworth Avenue and 54th Street. On December 15, 1899, in Wachtmeister's Hall, the seventh link was welded with the organization of a lodge which took the name of *Runan Lodge No. 7.* This lodge now meets in the South Side Viking Temple, corner of 69th Street and Emerald Avenue.

With the organization of Runan Lodge, we come to the end of the first decade in the life of the Independent Order of Vikings. Let us turn back the pages of our history and glance at some of the activities of our Order during its first ten years. We see sick benefit commencing with a stipend of $3.00 per week, later raised to $5.00 and again raised to $7.00. We see the payment of death benefit or insurance, transferred from the individual lodges to the Grand Lodge, and a graded assessment table being adopted. The Grand Lodge adopted new by-laws and constitution in 1893, which provided for a referendum vote by the members at large before amendments adopted by the Grand Lodge would go into effect. This provision throws a progressive light on the democratic view of the men then heading the Order. This referendum is still a part of our laws. The laws of the State had been changed and made more stringent for the protection of members of fraternal benefit societies, and the leaders of our Order, being both anxious to comply with State laws, and to afford the best and up-to-date protection for its members, after long deliberation, applied for a new charter, which was granted on November 30, 1895, by the Insurance Superintendent, Bradford K. Durfee.

Following the receipt of this charter, a new assessment table was adopted, remaining in effect until the year 1902. In 1899, the question had arisen of establishing a reserve fund to guarantee the Order's ability to meet its death losses, which was finally adopted. Each member paid one extra assessment for each of the first five years of his membership. This fund was left untouched and finally abandoned with the adoption of the 1914 assessment table, when the fund amounted to $26,542.02. The year 1899 also saw the birth of a publication devoted to the Order, and on motion of Otto Anderson, the name of "Vikingen" was adopted. The maiden issue came forth in May, 1899. This first ten year period closed with a cash balance in the funds of $1,666.77, a total of seven lodges and an aggregate membership of 809.



Gustaf Seastrom

Admitted to membership of Neptun No. 35, February 24, 1914. Grand Chief 1931-'33.



Anders Hemwall

Admitted to membership of Odin No. 8, December 11, 1900. Grand Chief 1933-'35.



Axel Sax

Admitted to membership of Hjalmar No. 23, October 27, 1911. Grand Chief 1935-'37.



John Klingstedt

(The present Grand Chief) Admitted to membership of Ivar No. 27, January 19, 1912. Elected Grand Chief 1939.

Second Decade, 1900-1909

As we enter the new century, conditions the country over were becoming more stable and prosperity widespread, and organization of additional lodges was pushed to its utmost. The eyes of our founders now turned westward and the section then known as Moreland was selected as the first point of attack. This section centers around Chicago Avenue and what was then 48th Avenue, now Cicero Avenue, where a heavy Swedish population had in recent years found homes on the prairies, rapidly changing into urban communities. On April 1, 1900, the eighth link was forged and *Odin Lodge No. 8* became a part of the Order, as the first subordinate lodge in the second decade of the life and existence of our Order. The place of meeting was Sayles Hall and 25 candidates constituted the charter roster. At present this lodge meets in the Odd Fellows Hall, 5022 W. Chicago Avenue. This lodge became unique for the reason that a father and his seven sons were members. We refer to Hans Hemwall and his sons, which group included Anders Hemwall, Grand Chief of the Order in 1933-'34.

With the organization of Odin Lodge, Chicago had been fairly well covered. Attention was now directed to Swedish centers outside of Chicago in the State of Illinois. What would seem more pertinent than to have their gaze fall upon Moline. This lively and active city, on the banks of the Mississippi River, had been known as a large industrial center and the home of the largest manufacturers of agricultural implements, affording employment to large numbers of skilled employees. At the start of the year 1901 organization work was undertaken and on April 20, thirty-five charter members gathered to induct *Thor Lodge No. 9* into the Order. This lodge met for many years in Olive Odd Fellows Hall, but now meets in its own building, located at 1514 4th Avenue, Moline, Illinois. Always a strong and progressive lodge, it soon rose to the position of the strongest lodge outside Chicago, and ranked fourth in numerical strength. In 1910 Thor Lodge invited the Grand Lodge to hold its 1911 convention in Moline, which invitation was accepted and the first Grand Lodge meeting outside of Chicago was held in Moline in 1911.

But our builders were not through canvassing Chicago and the Humboldt Park district was quietly and effectively scoured with the result of a new lodge located at Kedzie and Armitage Avenues, where, in Meck's Hall, on June 22, 1901, charter members numbering 20 gathered and organized *Svea Lodge No. 10.* This lodge now admits women to membership, which undoubtedly will add numerical strength. Meetings are held at 4201 Armitage Ave., Chicago.

In about six months of the new decade three new lodges sprang up and were welded into the chain. Our forerunners were "carrying on." In the fall of the year Waukegan attracted the attention of the organizers. After several visits to this city, located on the western shore of Lake Michigan, about 40 miles north of Chicago, their efforts were rewarded with success and on December 14, 1901, in the Grand Army Hall, 18 charter members were present to form *Norden Lodge No. 11.* This lodge became the northern outpost of the Order but was not to remain as such very long, as the Order moved on in its northerly course in the following years. Norden now holds its meetings at the Viking Temple, May and McAllister Streets, Waukegan, Illinois.

Now that organizing of outposts had met with success, the thirst for further conquest became overwhelming and trips were made to DeKalb, located in the heart of the grain and dairy section. This city, which contained industries for the manufacture of agricultural machinery, had a large settlement of Swedes. This is the city famed for barbed wire fencing for farms. It was not long before the required number of candidates were gathered and a charter granted to 17 members. The new lodge was installed on February 28, 1903, and the name and number became *Balder Lodge No. 12.* The lodge now meets in the Viking Hall, 6th and Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, Illinois.

But while DeKalb was being canvassed, another group of Grand Lodge representatives exploited the Grand Crossing section in Chicago and were met with



Otto Anderson

Admitted to membership of Drake No. 3, 1891. Grand Secretary 1895-'96.



Nils J. Lindskoog

Admitted to membership of Brage No. 2, February 9, 1893. Grand Secretay 1898-'99-1900 and 1908 to 1920.



Alfred Hult

Admitted to membership of Drake No. 3, April 26, 1909. Grand Treasurer 1909 to 1933.

success. On March 29, 1903, no less than 29 charter members gathered in the Mason Hall, 76th and Dobson Avenue, where a new lodge, *Harald Lodge No. 13,* was welded into the chain of an ever increasing number of links which served to make the Order more important as a fraternal organization. This lodge now holds its meetings at the Pythian Hall, 7439 Cottage Grove Avenue, where it has met for a number of years with great success.

While the heat of the summer of 1903 slowed down the pace somewhat, organizing was, however, not entirely shelved and towards the end of August, Grand Lodge representatives were busy in the Hyde Park section of Chicago. On August 29, 1903, the fourteenth link was added through the organization of *Gotha Lodge No. 14,* in a meeting in Jackson Hall at 55th Street and Jackson Avenue ,when 16 charter members received their charter. At the outset the section was deemed to be a rich field, but the opposite became a reality, and after a while, a new location was sought. A transfer was then made to the Roseland section, and meetings were opened in Scandia Hall, 11141 South Michigan Avenue, beginning with July 11, 1906. It now holds its meetings in the K. of P. Hall, 11037 S. Michigan Avenue.

Only a few days later, what promised to become a fertile field for the Viking society, became annexed to the Order. It was then known as "Stockholm" and was located near the McCormick Harvester Works. Here Lodge No. 15 was organized on September 5, 1903, in Oakley Hall, at Oakley Avenue and 21st Place. Thirty-seven charter members were present and the name chosen was *Ragnar Lodge No. 15.* It has always held its meetings in this section and continues to do so at 3437 Ogden Avenue.

Our organizers again turned their back on Chicago and sought new fields outside its limits. The Fox River valley, about 40 miles west of Chicago, gave promise by virtue of its many Swedish settlements. The City of Aurora was chosen as the first objective and on December 27, 1903, *Hilding Lodge No. 16* became the bridgehead for the Order, on the beautiful Fox River, along the shores of which the Order now counts many strong and active lodges, when in Hobbs Hall, 23 sons of the hoary north allied themselves as charter members of this link of the Order. The lodge now meets at 111 Fox Street, Aurora.

Having met with this success, the district immediately south of Chicago became the next objective and the rising steel industrial center known as Chicago Heights was the site of the next lodge and link. January 9, 1904, was a bitterly cold day, but not too cold for our pioneers to complete the work already commenced. Twenty-one gathered to weld the 17th link in the chain. The new lodge chose the name of *"Bele"* and became *lodge No. 17.* The field has not proved itself to be as fertile as hoped, but the lodge has had an active existence and performed its work in a very commendable manner. The present place of meeting is the I. O. O. F. Hall, 1716 Halsted Street, Chicago Heights.

About two months later, we find our hustling forefathers back in the Fox River Valley, this time in the City of Batavia, a promising community a few miles north of Aurora. The date was March 6, 1904, when 26 of the large Swedish colony of the picturesquely located city gathered and organized the second lodge of the important Fox River Valley group, and the eighteenth link of the extending circuit of subordinate lodges. The name chosen had a royal sound, as they chose *Ring Lodge No. 18.* This lodge has in late years made very rapid strides and possesses strength and power. Ring Lodge is now conducted by the second generation of Swedish-Americans, who have proudly and faithfully followed their immigrant ancestors in the maintenance of our fraternal principles and traditions. Ring Lodge now meets in the K. of P. Hall, South Batavia Avenue, Batavia, Illinois.

During the winter of 1904-'05 organization spirit took new life and the City of Joliet, southwest of Chicago, was chosen as a promising field for a lodge, resulting in *Thorsten Lodge No. 19,* on January 22, 1905. At the beinning this lodge gave great promise, as no less than 28 charter members were present on this cold and sunny Sunday afternoon. This hope and expectation has not been fully realized. However, the field is there and the nucleus can perhaps fulfill the organizers' fondest hopes. This lodge meets at West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

The State of Nebraska was chosen as the first state outside of Illinois for its field of operation. In the City of Omaha there were many Swedish-Americans who had heard of the active group in Chicago and a number of them approached the officers of the Order with the object of organizing a lodge. This resulted in the welding of *Bjorn Lodge No. 20,* in what was then South Omaha. The day of affiliation was February 26, 1905, in A. O. U. W. Temple, 25th and Main Streets. The great rivers of the middle west had now been crossed and the west of pioneer days had been reached. A national society reaching from coast to coast, as had been predicted 15 years earlier

by Grand Chief Alex Holm, had now been started on its "trek."

But activity within the limits of Chicago was by no means ended and in the months following, a number of the members of Runan Lodge welded a new link into the Order, meeting farther south. On March 21, 1905, in Mahoney's Hall, at 63rd Street and Halsted, 48 charter members formed the twenty-first link and the name chosen was none other than *Valhalla Lodge No. 21.* Truly a well known name among descendants of our ancient ancestors. This link has become very active and prosperous and now meets in the South Side Viking Temple, 69th Street and Emerald Avenue.

The industrial city of Kewanee, southwest of Chicago, was next canvassed. On May 18, 1905, the work was completed so that another link could be welded into the rapidly expanding chain, and *Niord Lodge No. 22* was added. As always in small industrial centers, so in Kewanee, when factories are prosperous, so are lodges. This lodge has not attained the result hoped for, but the lodge has always performed its fraternal duties very well. Meetings are now held at Redmen Hall, Main Street, Kewanee, Illinois.

Next we turn our attention to Evanston, nationally known university town, where several members of Chicago lodges resided, who deemed the time and place opportune for a new lodge. Thus on November 19, 1905, in Connors' Hall, 620 Davis Street, 27 charter members gathered and formed *Hjalmar Lodge No. 23.* It was a Sunday afternoon when this link was welded. In keeping with the city's tradition and being a city of churches, what could be better for a community than a fraternal lodge? This lodge, always alive to the opportunities and needs, took the initiative in forming the Swedish Fraternities of Evanston, and the erection of the beautiful lodge hall on 1415 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, where it now holds its meetings.

Before the year 1905 had reached an end, a call came from the Missouri River valley and another link was welded in the organization of *Orvar Odd Lodge No. 24.* This lodge set up its headquarters in the City of Omaha. The glory of the Order had spread from its twin city, South Omaha and Bjorn Lodge. Our countrymen of Omaha wanted to become a part of this rapidly growing organization, so arrangements were laid for the creation of this lodge on December 31, 1905, on which day 40 of our countrymen joined the order and completed the work. The cities of South Omaha and Omaha have long since become one, as have our first two Nebraska lodges. They have completed consolidation this year and are now working as Orvar Odd. Meetings are held in the Swedish Auditorium, 1609 Chicago Avenue, Omaha. May this consolidation continue to spread the principles of our Order in this promising field in increased activity.

The large Swedish-inhabited city of Rockford had apparently escaped the attention of the Grand Lodge during the earlier years of its existence, but this was due to the great demand on the limited time of the organizers. It was not until the winter of 1905-'06 that serious thought was given to this city. After a short but active campaign, a lodge saw its birth on February 11, 1906, when 33 charter members enrolled and adopted the name of *Ellida Lodge No. 25.* This lodge, ever active and progressive, pushed its work with vigor, and soon reached a ranking position in membership. Seeing the possibilities of furthering the Order by additional lodges in Rockford, Ellida members generously gave their time, labor and material and soon there were added no less than three more lodges in this city. Ellida owns a well-located building site where it hopes to have a temple of its own, and also owns a beautiful picnic park on the river, which is in great demand and a source of good revenue. Meetings are held in Viking Hall, 702 7th Street, Rockford, where club rooms are also maintained.

After traveling throughout the middle west, the organization spirit returned to Chicago and almost immediately on August 8, 1906, *Yngve Lodge No. 26* saw its light at Ashland and Diversey Avenues. On that date 27 charter members and a number of veterans of Frithiof Lodge gathered, welding what soon became a strong and active link in our membership chain. This lodge conducts its operations in the Summerdale district and meets in Verdandi Hall, 5015 N. Clark Street, Chicago.

Immediately after the organization of the aforesaid lodge, the Grand Lodge officers were ready to extend the chain by another link, when on September 7, 1906, in Eureka Hall on Irving Park Road, 26 charter members were received and *Ivar Lodge No. 27* came into existence. This lodge had a large and fruitful field in the northwest section of Chicago, and soon felt the want of a lodge hall spacious enough to meet its needs and modern in all respects. This need was fulfilled in the erection of Ivar Temple at 4146 Elston Avenue, where the lodge now conducts its meetings.

Across the Illinois-Indiana state line lies the large and prosperous city of Hammond, and there the first attempt was made to extend our Order in an easterly direction. On December 16, 1906, a nucleus of 26 of the city's Swedish male citizens gathered and organized *Vasa Lodge No. 28.* The field has not been very fruitful and the lodge has not advanced as hoped for, yet it has always fulfilled its fraternal obligations and gained for itself and the Order a good name and reputation. The lodge now meets in the I. O. O. F. Hall on State Street, Hammond, Indiana.

Back again in Illinois, efforts were made in Galesburg for the organization of a lodge, which efforts met with success and on December 22, 1906, 49 charter members were received and *Thyr Lodge No. 29* came into being. This city has always been prominent in the Swedish history of this state and boasts a large population of our countrymen, so it is not to be wondered that the class of charter members was large. The growth of this lodge has, however, been hindered by strong opposition from other organized Swedish groups, but present conditions in this city bespeak a promising field for lodge and Order. Meetings are held in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Main and Seminary Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

We now find our Grand Lodge casting hopeful glances in a northerly direction, and the city of Kenosha, Wisconsin, became the next objective. Here a number of our members had located their homes because of industrial reasons, and these brothers saw a productive field. With their aid *Sigurd Lodge No. 30* became a link in our fraternal chain on June 1, 1907, when 34 were received as charter members. Sigurd has always been a strong, active and progressive lodge and has always promoted the good name of the Order. The future appears very bright for this lodge and we are confident that full advantage will be taken of its opportunities. Meetings are held in the Danish Brotherhood Hall, 2204 63rd Street, Kenosha.

Not content with the success of the first lodge in Wisconsin, eyes were cast upon the great metropolis, Milwaukee. While this city never boasted a large Swedish settlement, enough were found to organize

a lodge and on July 26, 1908, Eagles Hall saw the birth of *Brejdablick Lodge No. 31,* when 28 names were inscribed on the charter. Numerically this lodge has never been very strong, as the field is and has been poor, but the quality of its members has always been the very best and will continue to spread the fraternal gospel of our Order. This lodge now meets in the K. P. Hall, 1925 W. National Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

We now return to Illinois, and the spot selected for the next exploitation was the city of Belvidere, where industrial developments had caused a small colony of our countrymen to make their homes. The result was that on November 29, 1908, a body of charter members, numbering 25, were received and *Tryggve Lodge No. 32* saw its beginning. The field was not very productive and as the industries in the city dwindled away, so did Tryggve, until a consolidation with the nearby Rockford lodge, Ellida, afforded a haven for Tryggve's members.

A year later, on November 28, 1909, active work was done near Chicago, and a chain of lodges in the Fox River belt resulted. First the Grand Lodge organizers canvassed the city of Geneva, about 40 miles west of Chicago, where 25 descendants of the North gathered with the result that *Mimer Lodge No. 33* saw its birth. Always an energetic lodge, it bravely fought off competition until now it has reached the pinnacle of success, and is prominent in the city's fraternal life. Meetings are held in the K. P. Hall, West State Street, Geneva, Illinois.

The beautiful country town of Crystal Lake next attracted the attention of the Grand Lodge, with the result that *Thyrfing Lodge No. 34* came into being on December 5, 1909, when 25 charter members were received. Located in a rich, agricultural district, well populated with our countrymen, the lodge has met with success and progress has been certain though not rapid. The future seems well assured as the second generation has embraced the principles of our Order and are very active in its work. It meets in the V. of F. W. Hall, Williams Street, Crystal Lake, Illinois.

On December 19, 1909, the good work done by our organizers in the City of St. Charles, Illinois, had culminated in the organization of the thirty-fifth link in our chain of lodges, when 32 charter members gathered to receive the charter for *Neptun Lodge No. 35.* This lodge has, since its beginning, always been a very active, hustling and successful lodge, and has taken its place as the foremost in organization work in the fraternal and civic life in the city. The field is good and recruits are plentiful, wherefore the future should be bright. With the organization of this lodge, we now had four strong and progressive lodges on the shores of the Fox River, creating a strong system of links strengthening our chain. Neptun meets in the Pearson Hall, East Main Street, St. Charles, Illinois.

During the second decade Lodges Nos. 8 to 35 were formulated and from a field confined entirely to Chicago, the Order spread so that lodges were now operating in four states of the Union and in 19 cities. The decade closed with a membership of 5,296. We were leaving our swaddling clothes and stepping out as a youth of great promise. During this period a change was made in the duration of the term of office for officers of lodges from six months to one year. The reserve fund was strengthened by lengthening the time for payment from five to ten years. In 1906 the delegates to the Grand Lodge subscribed to a fund for the erection of a suitable tombstone over the grave of Past Grand Chief Alex Holm, in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, The difference in the cost of the stone over the subscription was borne by Vikingarne Lodge No. 1. The first contest between grouped lodges for new members was held in 1908 to overcome the effects of the depression of 1907. But the most prominent and progressive step was undoubtedly the creation of the I. O. V. Valhalla Association which was the result of Past Grand Chief Frithiof Malmquist's recommendation and his foundation stone in the form of a donation of $50.00 at the Grand Lodge meeting of 1909. It was also in this decade, in the year 1909, that Brage Lodge No. 2 commenced the erection of its beautiful Viking Temple.

Third Decade, 1910-1919

THE third decade of our Order's existence was now extended and the agricultural region of DeKalb County was chosen as a field for organization. The city of Sycamore, the County seat, saw the advent of our organizers, when on February 5, 1910, 24 of our fellows were received as charter members and the name *Mjolner Lodge No. 36* selected for this link. The field is of consequence limited so that great advances have not been made, but the fraternal spirit of the Order has always been a beacon which has held the little group together. In the pioneer days of the state, this city was the terminal of what is now one of our great transcontinental railroads, with the result that our countrymen of an earlier period settled in this region. It is their descendants in a second and third generation that the lodge has had to solicit. The future looks very promising now, since a change in language occurred, and we hope for good results and growth. This group meets at Moose Hall, North Maple Street, Sycamore, Illinois.

The north shore was next canvassed in order that a system of links in our chain connecting Chicago with Milwaukee could be completed. Highwood, Ill., was selected as a possible field, with the result that on April 1, 1911, a class of 29 charter members were received and *Manhem Lodge No. 37* came into existence. The formation of this lodge had been a hard task as a closer survey revealed that the Swedish colony was not as large as had been foretold, but through perseverance the lodge has prospered. It has since moved its location to the beautiful Highland Park with good and promising results, and meetings are held in Witten Hall, on Central Avenue.

Another glance at the Nebraska field brought our Order to Havelock, where on July 8, 1911, *Nornan Lodge No. 38* was welded in the chain of lodges and our Order now boasted three lodges in this state. The organization meeting brought 25 charter members into the fold, but the field proved meager, wherefore Nornan moved its activities to Lincoln, the capital of the state, where it now operates to the credit of itself and the Order. Its meetings are held in Walsh Hall, 141 So. 12th Street, Lincoln.

On April 3, 1912, what appeared to be a vigorous lodge was organized in Phoenix Hall on Division Street, Chicago, the hall which had for years been the meeting place of Brage Lodge. Fifty-one sons of the hoary north gathered and formed *Trudvang Lodge No. 39.* But the old north side field was rapidly being drained of our countrymen, and it was not long before its field of activities was changed to the Lake View district where, after an effort, it surrendered the struggle to the strong lodges already there and consolidated with Drake Lodge No. 3.



Arrangement Committee for the Golden Jubilee in Chicago, October 25th and 26th, 1940.
Names listed on page 32.

The City of Berwyn immediately west of Chicago was next canvassed with the result that 27 members subscribed their names on the charter of *Thorbjorn Lodge No. 40* on June 29, 1912. The field was not as fruitful as had been hoped, but the members possessed a spirit of perseverance that has successfully carried it through its many trials and due to a progressive and intelligent movement the future appears very bright. It is hoped that the second generation which is now showing interest in the lodge will be able to handle the rudder and steer it through the years of tomorrow. Meetings are held in the Odd Fellows' Hall, 3242 Oak Park Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois.

The northwest side or Humboldt Park section of Chicago became the next center of interest to the organizers. With the aid of brothers of older lodges, *Engelbreckt Lodge No. 41* was welded into the chain when 30 charter members gathered in a hall at North and Crawford Avenues. This lodge became very active from its very birth and grew in numerical and financial strength far beyond all expectations. Of late, it has, like all our lodges, suffered from the depression, but still maintains a life of vigor and vim. We look with hopeful eyes to this lodge in the years to come and are confident that it will soon reach the highest rung of our lodges in the west section of Chicago. Its meetings are now held at 1733 N. Kedvale Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Back to Nebraska flew the spirit of organization and on October 19, 1912, in the city of Oakland, 25 charter members gathered and organized *Starke Lodge No. 42.* Located in the heart of a prosperous agricultural district, its members were largely drawn from this industry, making the field narrow, but in all respects of first rank. Always imbued with the true spirit of fraternalism, it has upheld the principles of our Order and made a good name for the Viking world in its field. It meets in Fraternal Hall, Oakland, Nebraska.

This lodge was followed by another in this state, when on January 11, 1913, in Wolf's Hall, in the city of Benson, near Omaha, *Helge Lodge No. 43* saw its birth and 25 charter members were received. This lodge has traveled the hard road. It soon found that Benson was not a promising field, wherefore it tried its fortune in a new field by moving into Omaha, but this territory had already been well canvassed by the two existing lodges. "While there is life there is hope" is an old adage and perhaps Helge will find a way to take its place again in the sun of our Order. Meetings are held in Drud Hall, 24th and Ames Avenue, Omaha.

Our organizers were not content to operate in just one field at a time, so while Lodge No. 43 was being completed, work had progressed satisfactorily in Woodstock, Illinois. On January 31, 1913, another link was ready to be welded and *Fridhem Lodge No. 44* was organized with 27 charter members. While few industries are located in Woodstock, employing our countrymen, it is the numerically limited agricultural population that Fridhem has had to depend upon. This lodge has, however, always been able to perform its obligations, and takes an active part in the civic life of the city. Meetings are held at Benton and East Judge Streets, Woodstock.

The south side of Chicago next attracted the attention of our organizers, where on December 11, 1913, in Lipmann's Hall, 64th Street and Ashland Avenue, 28 candidates were received as charter members and *Sten Sture Lodge No. 45* was added to our brotherhood. A surprising activity was displayed at once amongst these new brothers and an energetic campaign made a rapid growth in membership. Always vigorous and promising, like he whose name it bears, it soon took an important stand in the activities of our Order in the southern section of the city. The depression has, of course, had its effect, but progressive ideas will overcome this. The lodge was opened to women as soon as this change in our Order was brought about, and now operates as a mixed lodge. Meetings are held in the South Side Viking Temple, 69th Street and Emerald Avenue, Chicago.

New fields for widening our activities were again sought, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, was chosen as a prospective field, with the result that on October 9, 1914, in Richmond Hall, 38 sons of our homeland in this North Star state gathered and were received as charter members into *Storbjorn Lodge No. 46.* Oddly, this charter was not granted until on February 8, 1915, which year was our Silver Jubilee year. The field in this city made famous by the country's largest flour mills, has not proved as fertile as believed 25 years ago, but perhaps a more vigorous grasp of the helm will show good results. May the future fulfill this hope. This lodge meets in Camden Auditorium, 616 41st Avenue, Minneapolis.

The year 1916 saw the organization of the following eight lodges:

We now find our organizers casting hopeful glances along the north shore district of Illinois, which is immediately north of Chicago, where in the beautiful garden city of Lake Forest, *Lodbrok Lodge No. 47* was organized. This lodge has at all times had a very progressive membership and a flourishing growth, and has always maintained a high standard of civic activity. It now meets in the American Legion Home, 801 McKinley Road, Lake Forest, Illinois.

The state of Indiana was next canvassed, where in the city of LaPorte, Indiana, *Erik Lodge No. 48* was organized, mainly through the efforts of members of older lodges, residing there. The organization meeting was most enthusiastic and gave promise of a strong lodge. The field, however, has since been narrowed down through a shut down of some of the industries which attracted our nationality. This lodge has always been able to maintain a high standard of fraternalism.

The north and northwest side of Chicago became the next field of activity, and this time the object was to induct into our Order American born youth of Swedish descent which was the idea underlying the organization of *Progressive Lodge No. 49.* The youths comprising the membership readily grasped the principles of our fraternity and have at all times been active in the work of the Chicago lodges. It now meets in the Ivar Temple, 4146 Elston Avenue.

Back again to Indiana in the active industrial city of Indiana Harbor we find the organizers journeying to induct *Monitor Lodge No. 50.* After a very promising start, this lodge disintegrated during the World War and has long since consolidated with Vasa Lodge No. 28, in Hammond.

But better success was had in the prosperous city of South Bend, where *John Ericsson Lodge No. 51* became the next link in our chain of fraternal lodges. The membership of this lodge consisted chiefly of the

THE JUNIOR MOVEMENT

In the year 1933 at the meeting of the Grand Lodge held at Vikings Valhalla, Gurnee, Illinois, a resolution was adopted instructing the Executive Council of the Grand Lodge to investigate the possibilities of granting life insurance to children of Swedish descent. At the following meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1935, the Executive Council reported favorably on its investigation that it would be of benefit to the Order to organize a junior department.

On the strength of this report, a resolution was adopted to issue death benefit certificates upon the lives of children between the ages of 1 and 16 years. This provision was made a part of the constitution and by-laws of the Order. The amount of the insurance was to be limited to $500.00. It was also provided that such members, upon reaching the age of 16 years, could transfer to either of the benefit classes prescribed in the constitution of the Order for adult members. The first junior benefit certificate was issued on May 1, 1936, and at present about 500 such certificates are in force.

In organizing a junior benefit department, it was also deemed advantageous to form clubs for children, or "Junior Clubs," as they are called. Such clubs are operated independently of the junior benefit branch, and it was provided that children of Swedish descent may join without taking out junior insurance. There are now ten junior clubs operating in various parts of the country where the Order has lodges.

Erik Thulin.

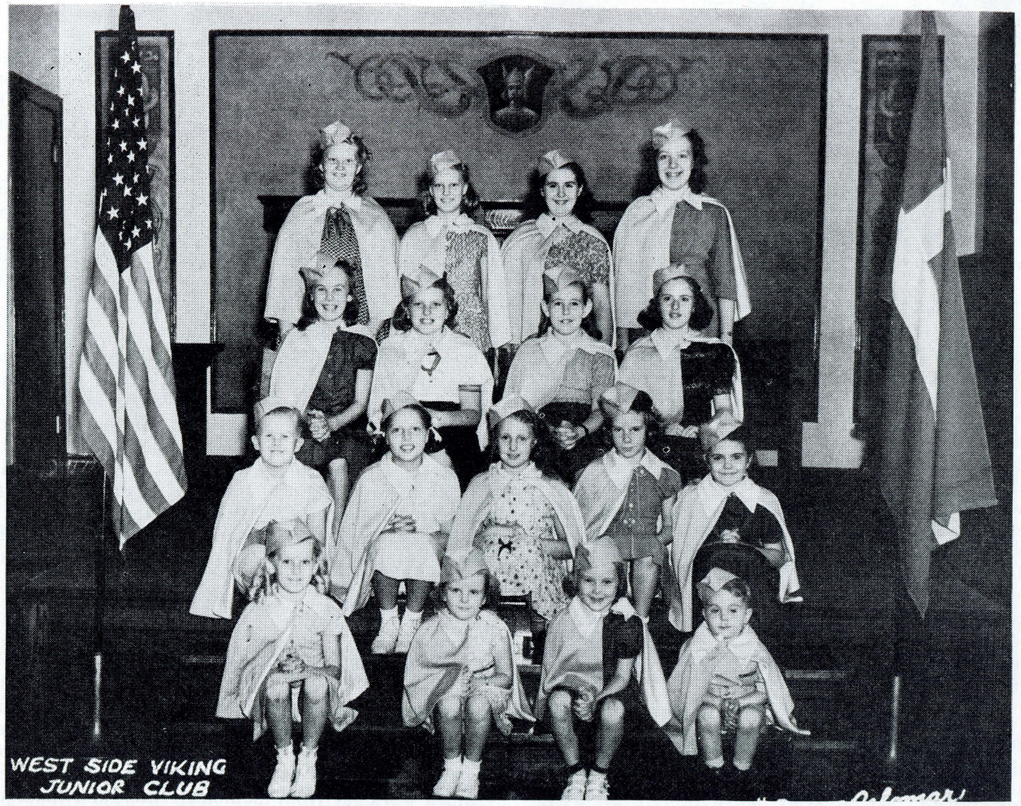
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workers in the large industries, and the name of the great Swedish inventor seemed most appropriate as a name for the new lodge. Good work has been done and better will be done in the future as the lodge has become one of the English-speaking lodges and the hope is high that the sons of the original members will soon take charge and spread our principles. The lodge meets at Beyler Hall, 114 E. Wayne St., South Bend, Indiana.

We now return to the Fox River Valley in the city of Elgin, made famous for its watch industries, where *Heimdal Lodge No. 52* became welded into our chain. Great efforts had been made by our Order during previous years to locate a lodge in this city, but without success, but now that all barriers had been broken down, the hope that this city would furnish a strong lodge has been realized. The lodge meets at Nelson Brothers Hall, 13 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois.

The urge to organize lodges for the Swedish-American youth led to the organization of *Harmony Lodge No. 53,* which was located in the south side division. This lodge, like its sister lodge, Progressive, at all times boasted of a great activity and a harmonious membership. It is a lodge that has always taken a prominent part in the work on the south side of the city and the hope is that it will go forward to even greater success. It now meets at the South Side Viking Temple, 69th and Emerald Avenue.

The last lodge to be organized in the year 1916 was *Skandia Lodge No. 54* in Gary, Indiana. This metropolis appeared to be a splendid field for our activities, but like Monitor lodge, the war years had



West Side Vikings Junior Club, Chicago, Illinois. Irma Bruce Evans, Director.

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their effect and the initiative of the members was directed to making war materials rather than the building up of a fraternal lodge, and finally because of the lack of the spirit of true fraternalism and the right initiative and leadership, it was forced to surrender its charter.

The year 1917 began to show the effects of the World War on our Order, as well as all fraternal societies, and the creation of new lodges lagged, but our organizers succeeded in adding two links to our chain. The first of these was *Trygg Lodge No. 55,* located in Blue Island, a settlement adjoining Chicago on the south west. This city had never boasted a large number of our nationality, but because of certain industries, it was thought to have promise for the future. The peace years which followed the World War made a decided change in this hope and Trygg did not reach the ridge of security expected, yet it has maintained the fraternalism on which our Order is founded and has performed its labors to the credit of its members. This lodge meets at 2860 W. Walnut Street, Blue Island, Illinois.

The second lodge was *Baltic Lodge No. 56* in Rockford, Illinois, thus giving the Order its second link in this strongly Swedish center. Baltic has always been very active and hustling, and it was but a short time after its birth that it purchased its own building. It was rebuilt in 1938 and is now one of the city's most prominent centers, located at 1524 9th Street, Rockford, Illinois, where the lodge holds its meetings.

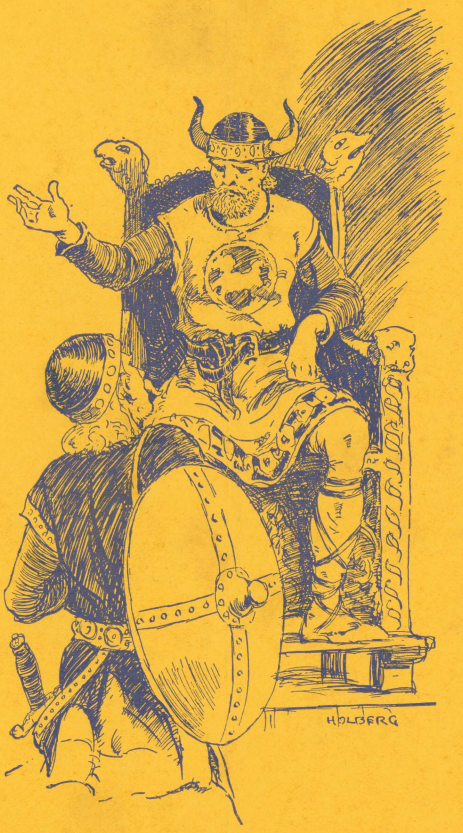
Year 1918 was the hardest year in this period for our Order. All efforts the land over were directed towards winning the war, and there was no field for our labors. Consequently no new links were forged in our chain of subordinate lodges. But when peace again ruled and the nation began to return to other pursuits, our organizers became again active. So we find them, in 1919, reaping organization results in Michigan, a new state. First the city of Muskegon became the object. This city, so beautifully located between mountainous sand dunes on the shores of Lake Michigan, has always had a large number of our people. Thanks to those of our Order who had taken up their residence, there, it did not take long before *Linné Lodge No. 57* became an active lodge of our Order. It became our northern outpost, and still retains that distinction. It owns its own "Viking Temple," located at 1504 Palmer Avenue, where it holds its meetings, and open house at all times.

From this point, it was but a short jaunt in a southeasterly direction to Grand Rapids, the nation's furniture center, where soon the second Michigan lodge sprang up into existence in the organization of *Idun Lodge No. 58.* Always active and progressive, this lodge has reaped well in a meager field. Meetings are held in Maccabee Hall, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We now cross the state to its eastern boundary, where in the large and hustling industrial center, Detroit, the nation's automobile center, had given employment to many of our people. The field was con-

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM

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HOLBERG