Verdandi Lodge

Fifty Years



2011.58.1

HISTORY

of

Verdandi Lodge No. 3

I. O. S.

1931 - 1940

In October 1930, Verdandi celebrated its Fortieth Anniversary and then issued a booklet containing the history of the past forty years. These pages will record the last ten years, thus completing Verdandi's half century history.

Truth
Unity
Charity

Verdandi Golden Jubilee

▼

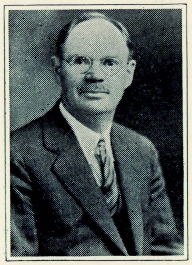
VERDANDI LODGE can today—October 25, 1940, —with pride and satisfaction look back to fifty years of useful and progressive existence. What we, as a lodge, are today is the work and sacrifices of those who founded the lodge. Without depriving the later and present management of any credit it is undeniable that without the well planned economy, careful investment and strict management of our founders we would not be where we are today. We are grateful that we still have with us two of our founders, namely Axel Blomfeldt and Oscar Stuberg.

We celebrated our fortieth anniversary on October 26, 1930, and on this occasion we issued a booklet containing history, data and figures covering the forty year period. These pages will record the period 1931-1940 and thus complete the history of Verdandi's fifty years of existence. On October 26, 1935, we celebrated our forty-fifth anniversary and at this time also commemorated the erection of Verdandi Hall, which was then twenty-five years old.

We have gone through a period of bank crashes, building failures and unemployment which have left some scars on our finances and on our membership list, but our financial losses have not been too heavy to carry and we have at all times been able to fulfill our obligations to the membership. In order to save some of our investments we have been obliged to take over two buildings on which we held mortgages, namely: 4425 N. Mango Avenue, which is a 2-story brick building—5 rooms on the first floor and 4 rooms on the second floor; and 6219 Wayne Ave., which also is a 2-story brick building—6 rooms on each floor, and garage. After paying back taxes, repairing and improving these buildings they are now bringing us a monthly income.

As the lodge is growing older so is the membership, and the list of deaths records some of our most loyal and ardent workers. We suffered

one of our greatest losses when John A. Sandgren on July 7, 1940, was called to the great beyond. Sandgren had been a member of Verdandi for nearly forty-five years and the records of the lodge give ample evidence of his activities during his years of useful membership. He served as chairman for three years, as recording secretary for five years and as a most valuable member of the trustees for nine years. His name is woven into the history of the lodge and he always did more than his full share of the work allotted. Sandgren served as secretary for the Svithiod Order for a period of thirty-one years. Of other members who have left us during the last ten years we mention: Charles Johnson, Charles Ostrand, Joseph Hedenblad, Gunnard Beckman, Axel Schott, Carl Peterson, O. W. Johnson, M. C. Roselund, Carl P. Johnson, Carl J. H. Carlson, Olof Nylen. At all funerals, whenever request was made for the Order's burial ritual, this was performed in a most impressive manner by Bro. Manfred Peterson.



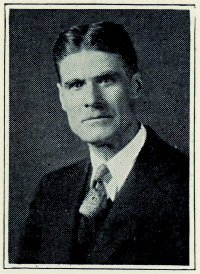
John A. Sandgren

Some of our elderly members have taken advantage of the benefit of the Svithiod Home at Birch Bluff, Excelsior, Minn. The Verdandi members residing at this Home are Frank Fellgren and Gustaf Johnson. John Franzen, admitted to the Home in December 1930, passed away September 7, 1940. At the Swedish Old People's Home in Evanston, Ill., reside Charles Sandquist and Oscar Stuberg. The latter—a most loyal member of Verdandi—has held many offices in Verdandi. His latest office was as a member of the trustees, in which capacity he served for a period of nineteen years. In January, 1940, he was made an honorary member of Verdandi trustees— an honor never before conferred on a member.

The Svithiod Day Outing—a yearly occurance for fifteen years—has had a faithful supporter in Verdandi, which during all these years, with the exception of three years, has had charge of the refreshment stand at these outings. At the yearly outings to the Swedish Old People's Home in Evanston, Verdandi has likewise had charge of the refreshment stand.

The Swedish language is still used at our meetings and the minutes of the lodge are kept in the Swedish language. However, all correspondence and all printed matter for the lodge are in the English language. In later years we have enlarged our membership mostly from young men born in this country, and these new members do not possess enough knowledge of the Swedish language in order to intelligently follow the proceedings and consequently do not attend our meetings very regularly. If this language obstacle was removed and we adopted the English language as the official language of the lodge it, no doubt, would be an encouragement to our American born members to take a more active part in the work of the lodge. Of the present membership 90 per cent. are born in Sweden, and 10 per cent. are born in America.

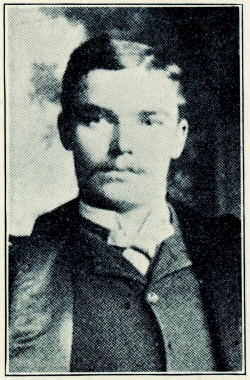
A member who has made Verdandi and himself well known throughout the Order is our talented Carl Stockenberg. His ability as writer, stage manager and instructor has been freely taken advantage of by the Grand lodge as well as by Junior clubs and lodges. One of his greatest and most successful creations was the pageant "On the wings of time." He wrote and directed this pageant for the Svithiod Order's fifty-fifth anniversary celebration at Medinah Temple on December 7, 1935. The huge Temple, seating 5,000 persons, was filled to capacity and many hundreds, who offered to buy tickets at a premium, were unable to gain admission.



Carl Stockenberg

A few figures, stating the amount Verdandi has paid out in sick benefit and funeral benefit during its fifty years of existence will give you an idea of the greatness of your lodge:

Sick benefit paid 1890—1929	$51,833.00
Sick benefit paid 1930—Sept. 26, 1940	38,109.00
Total	$89,942.00
Funeral benefit paid 1890—1929	$ 9,487.00
Funeral benefit 1930—Sept. 26, 1940	5,600.00
Total	$15,087.00



JOHN PETERSON

In John Peterson's home, 274 (now 1925) Dayton Street, the founders of Verdandi met on August 13, 1890, to discuss the possibility of organizing a branch lodge of Svithiod in the Lake View district.

John Peterson was one of the charter members and Verdandi's first financial secretary. When the Grand Lodge was instituted on June 25, 1893, he was elected treasurer of the Grand Lodge.



274 (now 1925) Dayton Street, Chicago

Chicago Oct 25 1890.

Enligt Sista Mötet beslut sammanträde
a Dearborn Hall 669 Rauna Av för tillämpa Brödra,

Mötet öppnades af Instalerande officeraren
John Holgren från Moder Lodgen of Svithiod
Swararfter kan i formlig Ordning förklara-
de denna Loge Organiserad under Namn
of Verdandi Loge No. 3. of I.O.D.

Derefter Instalerades Nyinvalde Officerare
Som S.M. Axel Blomfeldt
V.M. A. G. Anderson
Protokol Sek Axel Ostrand
Finans Sek. John Peterson
Kassör Charles Ostrand
Stormästar utnämnde de följande Som biträde
S.M. högra bitr. Frank Johnson
Conductor C. M. Roselund
Inv. vakt Oskar Stuberg
Yttre vakt John Ostrand

Derefter skreds Till Intagning of Nya
Medlemmar följande brödre Erhöll Medlemskap
och Även gradern
Gust Ostrand, J.C. Lindahl, Gust af Anderson
Rudolph Rubin, John E. Linder, C. J. Johnsen,
J. F. Johnson, P. J. Peterson, Emil Hallberg
Frank Matt, Louis Ostrand, Charly Dahlström
C. E. Södring, C. O. Peterson, Gustaf Albert Eden
Aug. Lindgren, John Chaisen, Emil Holmes
F. C. Johnson, A. Berg, Olof Carlson,
Erik Asplund, C. A. Hansen, J. E. Bergström
A. Theodor Zetterlund, Charley Anderson

Inkommen Ej mer Utgifter inga
Mötet af slutades of Ordföranden Axel Blomfeldt

Axel Ostrand
prot. Sek.

Facsimile of Verdandi lodge's first minutes after the Lodge was formally organized, October 25, 1890.

On August 13, 1890, the following members of Svithiod No. 1, Axel Blomfeldt, John Peterson, Charles Ostrand, Frank Johnson, A. G. Anderson, John Ostrand, M. C. Roselund and Oscar Stuberg, met at the home of John Peterson, 274 Dayton Street (now 1925 Dayton Street), for the purpose of organizing a Svithiod lodge in "förstaden känd under namnet Lake View."

After nine preliminary meetings it was decided to organize a Svithiod lodge in this district. At the preliminary meeting held September 3, 1890, Axel Ostrand was granted membership by the above mentioned organizers. On October 25, 1890, the lodge was instituted by John Wolgren from Svithiod lodge No. 1, and given the name Verdandi lodge No. 3, I. O. S. At this institutional meeting twenty-six candidates were granted membership. The names of the candidates are shown on the facsimile of the minutes from this meeting, and also the names of those who were elected the first officers of the lodge. At the preliminary meeting, October 15, 1890, an appropriation of $15.00 was granted for refreshments at the coming institutional meeting, October 25th. The records for the meeting October 28th, show that this appropriation was exceeded, and the actual cost for refreshments was $24.65.

In July 1937 the Grand lodge offered a trip to Yellowstone Park as a premium for taking in candidates during the period July 1937—June 1938. In the whole Order only four members fulfilled the requirements and of these three were members of Verdandi, namely David Carp, John B. Adolfson and Holger Hakansson.

For many years it has been customary in Verdandi to arrange a birthday party for those of our members who by their work and interest in Verdandi have made themselves especially well known to the membership. These birthday parties are more of a private nature and the lodge as a whole is not sponsoring these parties. In order to give special honor to two of our most outstanding members, Axel Blomfeldt and the late John A. Sandgren, the lodge has ordered that their portraits be painted and hung in the lodge hall as a constant reminder of what these men have done to make Verdandi what it is today.

In the Swedish-American magazine VALKYRIAN for April 1897, is published an article about the Svithiod Order. The Order was at that time 17 years old and consisted of seven lodges, having the following membership: Svithiod No. 1, 317; Manhem No. 2, 226; Verdandi No. 3, 124; Mimer No. 4, 107; Frithiof No. 5, 101; Gylfe No. 6, 140; Björn No. 7, 45. Verdandi No. 3 was then number four in size of membership, but we are now, and have been since May, 1922, number one in size of membership.



VERDANDI INITIATING STAFF 1912

This staff performed the initiatory ceremony according to the earliest ritual of the Order. When performing they were dressed in costumes in style with old Norse mythology. — *First row:* Chas. Bergström, Olof Lindgren, Emil Almén, Emil Stein, John Björn, Andrew Johnson, O. W. Johnson. *Second row:* Carl Cejie, Charles Seaburg, Charles Österberg, Chas. Westergren, Manfred Peterson, N. N. Johnson, Alfred Johnson, Henning Johnson. *Third row:* John Een, Gottfrid Blomfeldt, Eric Blomfeldt, Carl Lilja, E. G. Malmstrom, Theodore Peterson, Joseph Carp, Edwin Person, David Carp.

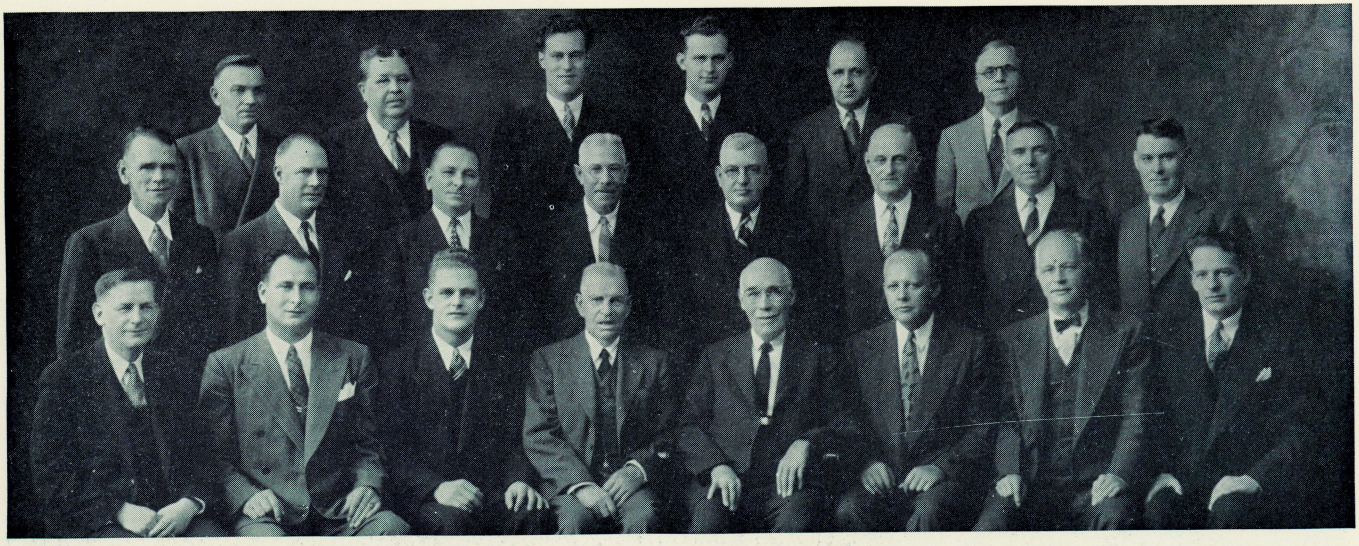


The Initiating Staff 1924

Verdandi Lodge Initiating Staff, organized September 21, 1924, was for many years considered one of the best in the Order and was frequently called upon to perform the ceremony in other lodges. Business and other interests have taken its toll among the membership, but members of the Staff are still performing the initiatory ceremony in Verdandi. Brother William Heicke, although not in the picture, joined the Staff shortly after its organization and is letter perfect in the Chairman's as well as in the Vice Chairman's part of the ritual.

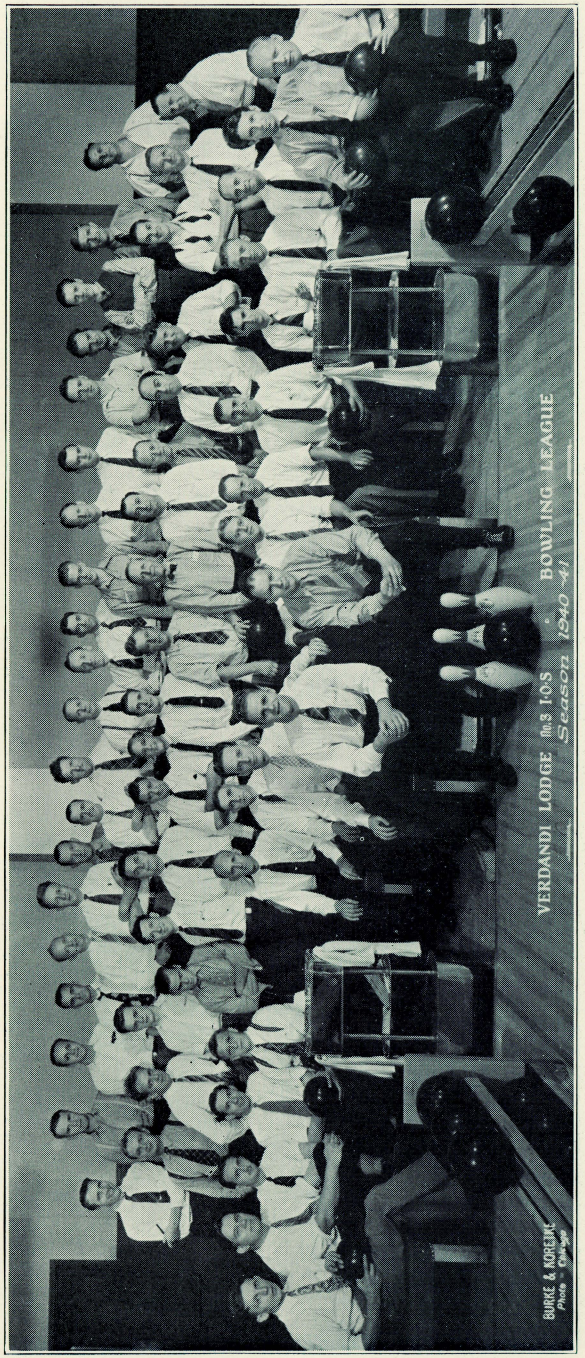
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First row: Carl Johnson, John Carlson, Bror Holmberg, Eric Hallen, Magnus Pearson, Thor Reisner, Sandfred Sjogren. *Second row:* Theodore Peterson, Edwin Person, Manfred Peterson, Carl Magnusson, Frans Malmgren, Axel W. Carlson, Olof Nylen, E. G. Malmstrom.



ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS OF VERDANDI 1940 AND VERDANDI'S TWO REMAINING CHARTER MEMBERS

First row: Hjalmar A. B. Jonsson, Einar Thornquist, Roland Beckman, Oscar Stuberg (Charter member), Axel Blomfeldt (Charter member), Helmer Nelson, Frans Malmgren, Holger Hakansson. *Second row:* Albert Carlson, Einar Lindblad, Otto Ekstrom, Theodore Peterson, Carl Lilja, Manfred Peterson, David Carp, John A. Johnson. *Third row:* Axel Nelson, John F. Ohrman, Stanley Carlson, Clarence Carlson, Carl Ronnback, Oscar Beck.



Our Bowling Leauge

In the fall of 1939 a Bowling Club was organized in Verdandi, consisting of eight teams or forty members. The club has proved to be very popular among the membership and this fall the request for membership in the club was so large that twelve teams—60 players—were organized.

Names of members in the bowling picture:

First row: Hugo Espling, Martin Swanson, Fred Peterson, Sven Streed, Carl Johnson, Karl Stiegler, John Roos, Holger Hakansson, Roland Beckman, Harold Wennersten, Swan Seashore, Folke Nelson, Ernest Pearson, Leonard Olson, Gust. Isaacson, Ernest Appelgren, Swan Johanson, Helmer Nelson.

Second row: Thursten Ljunggren, David Celinder, Harold Ekman, Donald Carp, Carl Streed, Alric Thunander, Charles Nelson, Sidney Peterson, Harry Peterson, Gust. Peters, Ivar Nordstrom, Einar Thornquist, Anton Lindstrom, Ivar Abrahamson, Erik Blomskog, Bert Elg, Olof Hallbom, John Bergstrom.

Third row: Sven Swan, Albert Carlson, Kenneth Dallia, Fridolf Ryman, Oscar Dallia, Holger Backstrom, B. Rahm, Wm. Oliverson, Gust. Lindmark, E. G. Johanson, Sigurd Malm, Elof Ramberg, Alvin Magnuson, Weimer Hedquist, Earl Ekman, Wm. Warner, Harold Mertz, Roland Lindstrom, Gösta Lind, Lennart Ryden.

Chairmen

Gunnard Beckman	1931.
Manfred Peterson	1932.
Carl Hjalmar Lundquist	1933, 1934, 1935.
William Heicke	1936.
Egon Schonell	1937.
Einar Thornquist	1938, 1939.
Roland Beckman	1940.

Vice Chairmen

Carl V. Magnusson	1931
Theodore Anderson	1932
John Swanson	1933
Axel W. Carlson	1934
William Heicke	1935
Egon Schonell	1936
Einar Thornquist	1937
Nils Eric Enberg	January-April 1938
Einar Olson	May-December 1938
Weimer Hedquist	1939
Helmer Nelson	1940

Recording Secretaries

Frans Malmgren	1931, 1932.
Carl V. Magnusson	1933, 1934.
Carl V. Magnusson	January-August 1935.
Carl P. Johnson	September-December 1935.
Carl P. Johnson	1936, 1937.
Carl P. Johnson	January-May 1938.
Frans Malmgren	June-December 1938.
Frans Malmgren	1939, 1940.

Financial Secretaries

Bror W. Holmberg	1931, 1932, 1933
Holger Hakansson	1934, 1935, 1936 1937, 1938, 1939 1940

Treasurers

Magnus Pearson	1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935.
John A. Johnson	1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940.

Membership Statistic

Year	Members Initiated	Total Members
1930	57	964
1931	14	841
1932	27	764
1933	30	708
1934	52	704
1935	39	693
1936	24	668
1937	80	732
1938	45	735
1939	41	732

The membership of Verdandi Lodge on September 26, 1940, is as follows:

Class A	153
Class B	107
Class C	16
Class D	98
Legal Reserve	366
Paid-up	7
Total Members	747
Additional Certificates	6
Juniors	10
Total Certificates	763

Trustees

1931
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
Manfred Peterson
William Heicke
Carl P. Johnson

1932
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
William Heicke
Carl P. Johnson
Theodore Peterson

1933
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
William Heicke
Carl P. Johnson
Theodore Peterson

1934
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
Manfred Peterson
William Heicke
Bror W. Holmberg

1935
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
Manfred Peterson
Bror W. Holmberg
Frans Malmgren

1936
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
Manfred Peterson
Frans Malmgren
Otto Ekstrom

1937
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
Manfred Peterson
Frans Malmgren
Otto Ekstrom

1938
David Carp, Chairman
Thor Reisner, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
Manfred Peterson
Otto Ekstrom
F. Malmgren, Jan.-May
Theo. Peterson, June-Dec.

1939
David Carp, Chairman
Otto Ekstrom, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Oscar Stuberg
Manfred Peterson
Theodore Peterson
Carl Lilja

1940
David Carp, Chairman
Otto Ekstrom, V. Chairm.
Hj. A. B. Jonsson, Sec'y.
Manfred Peterson
Theodore Peterson
Carl Lilja
Einar Thornquist
Oscar Stuberg,
Honorary Member

The oldest member of trustees—in years of service—is Hjalmar A. B. Jonsson, who is now serving his 22nd year as trustees' secretary-treasurer. No officer in the history of the lodge has a longer service record.

Benefit to Members

Year	Sick Benefit	Funeral Benefit	Year	Sick Benefit	Funeral Benefit
1930	$4,810.50	$200.00	1936	$3,643.50	$400.00
1931	4,878.00	500.00	1937	2,607.50	450.00
1932	4,122.00	800.00	1938	2,787.50	450.00
1933	3,429.50	550.00	1939	3,206.00	550.00
1934	2,821.50	400.00	1940—		
1935	3,356.50	500.00	Sept. 26	2,446.50	800.00

Verdandi
Golden Jubilee
Banquet

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1940

7:30 o'clock

SVITHIOD SINGING CLUB

624 Wrightwood Ave.

▼

MENU

Shrimp Cocktail

Consomme

Roast Turkey with Dressing

Lingon

Mashed and Sweet Potatoes

Peas

Aspic with French Dressing

"Snaps" - Beer

Ice Cream

Coffee

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The program that follows will consist of song, music and speeches.

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After the program dancing.

334