

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM CENTER

IN THE NEWS

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Jacobson preserving heritage

City's Swedes not forgotten

By JOHN HOLDEN
Correspondent

Chicago's Swedish community has been waning for nearly 40 years. But thanks in large part to Selma Jacobson, the accomplishments of this hard-working and energetic group of Northern European immigrants are being documented for future generations.

Though they were never the dominant ethnic group in Chicago, there were once sufficient numbers in Chicago to make its Swedish population the second largest in the world. And it was the invention of the balloon-frame house by a Swedish-American in Chicago that revolutionized the home-building industry, paving the way for the rapid development of Chicago and other American cities.

Jacobson's ancestors were among those who came to the new world of America in the latter half of the 19th century in search of greater opportunity. She was the second-oldest of four children born to a Lutheran minister and a school teacher.

The Rev. Jacobson's ministry led the family to Joliet. During their early childhood, Selma, her two sisters and one brother were imbued with a strong sense of Swedish language and culture through rigorous religious training in her father's native tongue. But when her father died when she was only 5, the young family packed up and moved to Chicago's Portage Park neighborhood in 1912, which at the time was more prairie than city.

"If you looked west from the corner of Laramie and Irving Park, the only thing you would see was a couple of farm houses and hundreds of willow trees," Selma Jacobson recalled.

Jacobson's mother went back to teaching to support her family, and she eventually followed in her mother's footsteps. Until 1972, Selma Jacobson taught in Chicago's public schools.

Though Jacobson has always been a Chicagoan, she has taken 27 trips to her ancestral land. Many of her trips were made to introduce groups of educators to the highly regarded Swedish education system. One of her trips was made on the Stockholm on the night in 1956 that ship struck and sank the ocean liner Andrea Doria.

"I was sleeping when the crash occurred," Jacobson said. "I immediately jumped up and looked out my porthole. All I could see was the side of the Andrea Doria."

Jacobson's greatest achievement in Sweden came in the early 1950s when she received an invitation from a school in a small southern town. She was asked to create and teach an applied arts program, combining facets of home economics and industrial arts such as woodworking and metal crafting. In what was then a revolutionary concept, the class was taught to both boys and girls. Jacobson taught the program two years, before she was forced by circumstances to return to the United States.

Over the years, Jacobson's involvement in Swedish cultural groups allowed her to accumulate a wide collection of artifacts and documents relating to the early years of Swedes in America. Among her collection are hundreds of Swedish-language books and newspapers which flourished around the country in the 19th century.

As early as 1961, Jacobson proposed the idea of building a Swedish cultural center in Chicago to hold the materials she had acquired. Although Jacobson has been a resident of Portage Park most of her life, she knew the center should be in the Andersonville area around Foster and Ashland avenues, the traditional base of Chicago's Swedish community.

Originally incorporated by Norwegian immigrants in the mid-1800s as an independent town, Andersonville was consolidated into Chicago in the latter part of the century. The area was home to tens of thousands of Swedish immigrants, and in 1920 it placed Chicago's Swedish population only behind that of Gothenburg, according to Jacobson.

The Andersonville name eventually fell into disuse, but was resurrected following World War II when area businessmen tried to reaffirm the neighborhood's Scandinavian identity.

(The change in spelling of the name from the Norwegian "Andersenville" to Swedish "Andersonville" reflected the change in ethnic makeup since the time the town was established.)

Jacobson's original proposal for a Swedish archives got a less-than-enthusiastic reception in the early 1960s. "A lot of people, even college professors with masters degrees and Ph.D.s, thought I was crazy for wanting to save 'this junk,'" Jacobson recalled. "It wasn't until people started to look at what I had that they realized what a rich source of history this was."

Fortunately, Jacobson found a sympathetic supporter in the president of North Park College, on Foster Avenue, and since 1961 she has used rooms at the college to house her collections. North Park subsequently received a $2.5 million grant to launch a Scandinavian studies program.

Following her retirement in 1972, Jacobson also began working on creating a Swedish cultural museum in Chicago.

After teaming up with Kurt Mathiasson, owner of the Svea Restaurant on North Clark Street, Jacobson eventually succeeded in opening the Swedish American Museum Center at 5248 N. Clark St. The opening was timed to coincide with the Bicentennial in 1976, and it was officially dedicated by King Carl XVI of Sweden, who honored Jacobson for her work.

The museum's collection of costumes, household artifacts and photographs has continuously grown over the last 10 years, and the center is now bulging at the seams. But plans to move to a nearby three-story building are in the final stages. The museum has received a $75,000 grant, and the Swedish government has arranged for a museum curator to oversee development of the new museum.

The museum is expected to open next year in time to commemorate the arrival of America's first Swedish immigrants 350 years ago. Once again, King Carl is expected to be on hand for the dedication.

Among Chicago's more notable denizens who trace their roots to the soil of Sweden are Gov. James Thompson. During a recent visit to Chicago by Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, Thompson spoke at length about the contributions by Swedish-Americans. But no appraisal of Swedish-Americans in Chicago would be complete without a few words about Selma Jacobson.



PORTAGE PARK RESIDENT Selma Jacobson, 80, is greeted by Mayor Harold Washington during a city reception. Known as the grand dame of the Swedish-American community, Jacobson has been instrumental in creating a Swedish cultural museum. Her work on behalf of recognizing the Swedes' contributions to Chicago led to honors bestowed by King Carl XVI.



A pleased Ingrid Carlsson walks out of Deering Library followed by NU Pres. Arnold Weber, Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and Edna Weber. To the left are Secret Service agents pointing the way. (Staff photo by Jim Robinson)

NU homecoming for prime minister

Swede entertained by NU Pres. Weber on nostalgia trip

By Ellen Shubart

As with most alums, a trip back to the old alma mater included a nostalgic walk to the buildings where he took classes and where she worked, a visit to old friends still about and a lunch at the student center.

Unlike most alums, though, this was the Swedish prime minister, Ingvar Carlsson, and his wife — and their walk around Northwestern University campus recently came complete with a Secret Service detachment, 36 Swedish journalists accompanying him on his American tour, a small group of area journalists, NU Pres. Arnold Weber and his wife and NU security police.

Carlsson was in the United States to patch up relations with the Washington, explained one Swedish journalist. "Things haven't been the same since the Vietnam War (when Sweden was neutral and welcomed many anti-war Americans)," said Gorar Rosenberg, U.S. correspondent for Swedish public television.

NONSENSE, SAID U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), at NU last weekend to speak to new students; "there is no sense of coolness between the U.S. and Sweden; this county has had excellent relations with Sweden."

Bumpers added that Carlsson has had difficulties at home when it was revealed that some arms merchants were sending arms to Iran, "like our situation," he said. "But I think it is going to be okay."

Bumpers was one of the 300 invited guests who attended an "All-American" luncheon in a tent behind the Norris Center, hosted by the Webers for the Carlssons.

WHILE LUNCH GUESTS — student leaders, faculty and administrators of the university, friends of the Carlssons and the Swedish press delegation — dined on bratwurst and barbecued chicken and listened to bluegrass music, the Carlssons recalled many of the pleasant times spent at NU in 1960-'61 when, as a graduate student Fulbright Scholar, he studied economics and Ingrid Carlsson worked at the Deering Library.

"I never give interviews," Ingrid Carlsson protested, then proceeded to talk about how "thrilled" she was at returning. "As you can understand, it is sad, because it so was long ago and those times won't come back." Mrs. Carlsson cataloged a collection of underground Danish newspapers from World War II while she at Deering. It was a project that "had been stored up and waited for," she said.

Despite a visit to Deering, she couldn't discover if the collection is still in the library.

On his walking tour Carlsson pointed out — in Swedish — the field in front of Deering where the European students met to play "foosball," or the game known in America as soccer, and couple visited Kresge Hall, where he took economics classes. They walked by "The Rock," sporting red and green colors and initials of Kappa Sigma.

CARLSSON, WHO FROM a distance looked young enough to be taken for a student of today, with a shock of blond hair and horn-rimmed glasses, is a popular leader, Swedish television commentator Rosenberg said, but not as charismatic as his predecessor, Olaf Palme, who was assassinated last year. "He is more of a consensus person, and that makes it easier for the people to like him."

Carlsson appeared moved by gifts he received — a purple NU sweatshirt and a crystal map of the U.S. that had Evanston etched in — and lauded the university as "one of the best in the country."

"I learned a lot in economics that has been helpful as a member of Parliament and in government, even if my minister of finance disagrees," he joked. "It is of great value to learn so much of American society and American friends," he added. "We come here with very sentimental feelings. I will never forget."

Regarding the prime minister's Social Democratic party affiliation and leftward political leanings, Robert Coen, economics department chairman, pointed out that NU's economics department is "eclectic" and that studying economics doesn't necessarily make one a conservative. "A good economics faculty exposes students to all sides," he said, adding that he and Carlsson had many of the same teachers, although they didn't attend classes together.

AMONG THEM WERE Richard Heflebower, whose style included taking an interest in his students, and Kenyon Poole, who was Carlsson's adviser and a specialist in governmental finance. "We're very proud to have him as an alum," Coen said.

Bob Fitzgerald, an Evanston resident and NU monographic cataloger, was delighted to see his friends. Fitzgerald worked with Ingrid Carlsson at Deering and later visited the Carlssons in Sweden. "Ingrid is a fantastic person," he said, and both the Carlssons helped teach him many things about Scandinavia. "I took great interest (in the counties), learned the language and stayed with them in Stockholm twice.

"I always knew Ingvar would climb the ladder (of success) but it was a surprise he climbed it that fast," Fitzgerald said. As for the visit, Fitzgerald was delighted about that too. "It should happen more often," he said. "Some floors around here have never been so clean."

$78,000 grant received

Chicago Swedish American Museum Building Purchase Finalized

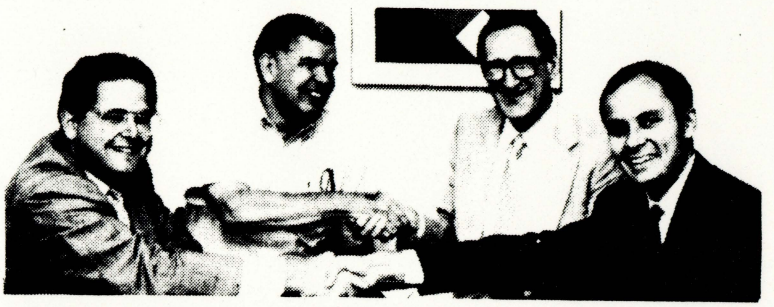
The Swedish American Museum Center (SAMAC) has taken the final step toward purchasing a new building. The consummation of the purchase of 5211 N. Clark Street in Chicago was signed by SAMAC's Chairman, Sven Flodstrom and Vice-Chairmen, Tom Thorelli at the Chicago Title and Trust on 15 July.

The Swedish American Museum took possession of the building at the end of July. Remodeling will begin shortly thereafter, but the actual moving date has not been set. The official opening of the Museum will be 19 April 1988. The King and Queen of Sweden will cut the ribbon and take part in the Andersonville festivities.

The new building, designed by a Swedish architect and built by a contractor for a Swedish American company in 1928, is finally returning to Swedish hands. The original museum, founded by Kurt Mathiasson and opened by the King of Sweden in 1976, has outgrown the small storefront space at 5248 N. Clark Street. The larger building will fulfill the Museum's goal of creating a Swedish Cultural Center in the Andersonville neighborhood. The project will provide cultural programs and assembly facilities. Apart from displaying permanent and temporaty exhibits, the museum will be offering classes in arts and crafts, Swedish language, concerts, movies, lectures, and traditional holiday celebrations.

The Goals of SAMAC are being supported by the generosity of many different foundations. The Museum recently received $78,000 from the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Minnesfund. Marcus Wallenberg was the uncle of the World War II Swedish hero, Raoul Wallenberg. This award will assist the Swedish American Museum Center's efforts in becoming the anchor in combining the revitalization of current Andersonville with the revitalization of Andersonville's Swedish history.

For information about SAMAC, its collections and programs, call the Museum at (312) 728-8111.



Phal Lipshotz, (left to right) Ward Motts, Sven Flodstrom, and Tom Thorelli finalize the purchase of the new Swedish American Museum building in Chicago.

Swedish American Museum moves

The Swedish American Museum Center is moving across the street to a new home at 5211 N. Clark St. in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. The small storefront where volunteers have maintained a permanent exhibit for 20 years will give way to more spacious quarters, with a library and meeting rooms for more than 50 Chicago-area Swedish organizations. Executive Director Kerstin Lane heads a newly hired professional staff.

Kurt Matthiason, an area businessman who founded the museum and serves on its board, reports that the building was designed and built by Swedes. It was first used as a hardware store to serve the many Swedish Americans in the building trades.

The museum is seeking to build a major collection of objects to preserve Chicago's Swedish American history. Anyone interested in contributing to the collection should contact the Museum.

The Swedish American Museum exhibits will remain open at its old location at 5248 N. Clark St. during renovation of the new building. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, Saturday till 3 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday. For more information, call 728-8111.

News of Rogers Park and Edgewater

Swedish dreams

Museum plans big move—if parking can be found

By KIM GODFREY
Correspondent

WHEN KURT MATHIASSON founded Andersonville's Swedish American Museum in 1976, he dreamed about a Swedish cultural center.

Ten years later, his dream is coming true.

The museum, a one-room tribute to Chicago's Swedes at 5248 N. Clark St., is crowded with old photographs, Swedish Bibles and artifacts. According to the museum's executive director, Kerstin Lane, more artwork is stored at three other locations.

In addition, the Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago (SAMAC) recently purchased $15,000 of artwork from the Chicago Swedish Club. SAMAC has also petitioned to be the next home for the Swedish American Historical Society's archives, which Mathiasson called "possibly the best local ethnic archives in America."



THE SWEDISH-AMERICAN MUSEUM, now at 5248 N. Clark St., hopes to move into much larger quarters down the block.

TO ACCOMMODATE the growing collection, SAMAC voted late last fall to purchase the building at 5211 N. Clark St.

Before the plans are finalized, however, more parking spaces must be created, he said.

The larger building was chosen because it has a Swedish heritage. It is now the home of Advance Refrigeration.

"There was an emotional thing about being in a building that was built by and for Swedes," Lane said. The structure was designed by a Swede in 1928 and built by Swedish workers in 1929.

The prospective building is 25 times larger than the museum's present space, so Mathiasson's wish will be granted, and a Swedish cultural center created if the parking problem can be solved.

THE CENTER would be used for meetings of the 70 or so Chicago Swedish groups, as well as lectures, exhibits, concerts and other cultural activities, Mathiasson said.

"The cultural center would become the focal point for Swedish activities in the Chicago area," Lane said. Andersonville already has the highest concentration of Swedes in the city.

If the Swedish American Historical Society turns its archives over to SAMAC, the new building would also become a center for research, Lane said.

The new museum would be more professional than the current one, both Lane and Mathiasson agreed. "It will be a well-coordinated museum," Mathiasson said, "something Swedes, the neighborhood and the city of Chicago can be proud of."

A SHOWCASE for specializing in works of Chicago's Swedes and their contribution to the area, the museum would have displays such as models of the Chicago River with the Swedish-built locks or Chicago Avenue in 1838, where and when the first Swedes arrived, he said.

Lane explained, "We're trying to create a museum where children and adults can learn something about the Swedes who built Chicago."

SAMAC's goal is to have the new museum and cultural center ready to be opened by Sweden's King Gustav and Queen Sylvia in 1988, she said. The royal couple will come to Chicago as part of a United States visit celebrating the 350th anniversary of the first Swedes' arrival in Delaware.

SAMAC has until the end of July, when its option on the Advance Refrigeration building expires, to smooth out the parking problem. "If we can get more parking, then (that solves) our biggest problem," Mathiasson said.

The parking shortage is a community-wide problem, which Andersonville leaders are working on together with museum officials.

"PARKING IS our number-one concern, too," said Terry Cunningham, executive director of the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce.

The ACC is also concerned about bolstering the community's businesses and re-establishing Andersonville's Swedish identity, Cunningham said. The Swedish American Museum holds a special position within the community, Cunningham explained, and the chamber wants to help keep the museum in Andersonville.

In addition to help from the chamber, Aldermen Marion Volini (48th) and Patrick O'Connor (40th) have been working with museum officials to solve the parking shortage.

The museum, in Volini's ward, is "a great boost for the whole area and its ethnic identity," the alderman said, and her office is doing everything possible to help the museum develop in Andersonville.

POTENTIAL PARKING sites are located in O'Connor's ward. One possibility is a playlot some residents say is used by gangs at night. O'Connor said he is talking with residents who use it during the day and working with the Chicago Board of Education to relocate the playlot.

The potential parking lot sites "are more or less in the planning stage," O'Connor said. He called the new museum and cultural center "a good cause we can all get behind."

Both aldermen said they are trying to speed up the process to find a parking solution, in light of the July deadline.

Volini and O'Connor encouraged the neighborhood to apply for Build Illinois Funds, which could be available as early as April. If there are not already funding priorities pending in City Council, O'Connor said, Andersonville has a good chance to be recommended, especially with the support of a majority- and minority-bloc alderman.

The chamber and SAMAC are also working together to apply for city funding from the Department of Economic Development. A parking study is being conducted to determine the parking needs in the area, Cunningham said, and will be submitted to the city. If approved, the city will match money put up by the chamber and SAMAC to construct a parking lot.

Mathiasson said he is optimistic and very excited about the plans for the new museum and cultural center. His dream may, indeed, become a reality.

Swedish-Americans make a bigger stand

By Jay Pridmore

Like many old ethnic enclaves, Andersonville, on Chicago's North Side, has become a melange of many nationalities. But its Swedish roots, which are its deepest, will be recharged soon with the new Swedish American Museum Center in a large building at 5211 N. Clark St.

Members of Chicago's Swedish community recently agreed to purchase the building, which will serve as a cultural center as well as an exhibit space, to replace the current, much smaller museum across the street, at 5248 N. Clark St. By moving from its storefront to a 24,000-square-foot building, the museum will be able to host traveling exhibitions, such as two scheduled after the facility opens next year: one on Swedish-American artists and another on Gustav Tenngrin, an early artist for Walt Disney.

Swedes have been in Chicago since at least 1838—some started farms on the North Side, west of present-day Andersonville—but the idea for a museum came only in 1976. "That was the Bicentennial year," said its founder, Kurt Mathiasson, owner of Svea Restaurant, 5236 N. Clark St. "And I was sick and tired of hearing so little about the Swedes." There was obviously pent-up demand for a museum, for Mathiasson was able to raise $5,000 in an afternoon. And when the Swedish American Museum opened, King Carl Gustav of Sweden came to dedicate it.

The king will come again next year to dedicate the new facility, according to Kirsten Lane, director of the museum. In the meantime, the Swedes have a glamorous event planned on the museum's behalf. The Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago is cooperating with the Raoul Wallenberg Society for an event to honor recipients of the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award, given for notable contributions by business persons, religious leaders and social service workers in Chicago. Afterwards, a musical tribute will be made to Wallenberg, a Swede who worked to save thousands of Jews in concentration camps in Eastern Europe. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the New Thorne Auditorium of Northwestern University, 375 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago. Tickets are $25 to $125. Phone 728-8111.

MUSEUMS

Among concert selections, conducted by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Victor Aitay, is a symphony written by German composer Wilhelm Rettich shortly after World War II to honor Wallenberg.

The event is an opportunity to bring Swedes and other people together to honor Wallenberg, who disappeared toward the end of the Holocaust. Attending the tribute will be Sweden's Sigvard Bernadotte, who is the uncle of the king and also one of Scandinavia's leading industrial designers. Also on hand will be Guy von Dardel, half brother of Wallenberg and a leader in efforts to locate Wallenberg, who is thought to have been imprisoned in a Soviet gulag.

The event benefits the Wallenberg society, which is involved in various humanitarian efforts throughout the world, and the museum, which will use its proceeds to establish a room in honor of Wallenberg for its special exhibits. It also precedes the opening Thursday of a Wallenberg photo exhibition, at the 222 N. LaSalle St. building.

The Swedish museum's involvement is another step in creating a new home "that is put together by experts from Sweden and Chicago," Mathiasson said. Various professors with an interest in Swedish immigration to America have promised their efforts to the museum, he said.

Despite these plans, the present museum, with a log cabin facade, has a certain charm. When Mathiasson first conceived of the idea, he went to families and asked for tools, costumes, paintings, musical intruments and other artifacts to put on display.

Since the museum's opening, however, its collections have outgrown the small quarters. When the Swedish Club on LaSalle Street closed, the museum purchased many of its paintings and almost all the stained glass from the old building, Mathiasson says. Also, the Svethiod Singing Club, located on Wrightwood Avenue until it closed some years ago, provided the museum with more paintings and also a model of the first ship to bring Swedes to America, which landed in 1638 in Delaware.

Though all the money has yet to be raised for the new museum, which was formerly a refrigerator store, Mathiasson says the funds necessary to purchase the $200,000 building will be in hand by the time the deal is closed this spring. Besides soliciting funds locally, the association is conducting a lottery in Sweden, with a Saab as first prize, donated by the car company.

For information about the museum, phone 728-8111.

Swedish American Museum Plans Raoul Wallenberg Exhibit

Raoul Wallenberg – A Tribute, is an exhibition depicting Wallenberg's life in 22 panels of photographs and narrative, concentrating on the World War II years in which he worked to free Hungarian people from death at the hands of the Nazis.

On 2 April 1987, the exhibition will be opened to the public in the lobby of the building at 222 North LaSalle in downtown Chicago. Wallenberg's sister Nina Lagergren, and other dignataries will arrive from Sweden to officially open the show's three week stay in Chicago. The exhibition space was obtained through the cooperation of Richard Goodman of Fishman Spever Properties and the assistance of Robert Diamant, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

On 1 April 1987, an invitation reception will be held at the exhibit site, followed by a black tie dinner at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The exhibit, reception and dinner are being coordinated by the Swedish American Museum Center of Chicago under the leadership of Eva Eliscu, serving as the chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of Chicago.

Included at the dinner will be a special musical tribute, a short symphony written in honor of Wallenberg by Maestro Wilhelm Rettich, former conductor of the Berlin Symphony. This tribute will be performed for the first time with the assistance of Frederick Hemke, Professor of Music at Northwestern University. The symphony will be conducted by Victor Aitay, Chicago Symphony Orchestra; a survivor from Hungary due to the efforts of Wallenberg's mission during World War II.

As part of the program, a Wallenberg Humanitarian Award will be presented to a distinguished person. Proceeds from the fund-raising events will be used to build the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Room of the Swedish American Museum Center, and to establish a Wallenberg Scholarship fund. With the development of the new Swedish American Museum Center, the Association plans to develop a room devoted to humanitarian efforts such as Wallenberg's. Underwriters and donors to this special project will be recognized through publicity about the exhibit, in programs and guides, and on permanent plaques within the Humanitarian Room.

In 1982, the exhibit was opened by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at the Church of St. Martins in the Fields, London. Since that time, the exhibit has been in New York City, at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, and in Toledo, Ohio. In March 1985, 1200 guests attended a tribute dinner at the Sheraton Center Hotel in New York City, which raised funds for the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States. Two days later, the exhibit opened at the New York City Public Library. From Chicago, the exhibit will travel to the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C.

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Swedish-American Musuem Center

Wallenberg Dinner set for April 1st in Chicago

Continued from page 1

Raoul Wallenberg was a 32-year-old businessman when the American War Refugee Board visited neutral Sweden and chose him to be their representative in Hungary. The Swedish government cooperated by giving Wallenberg diplomatic status and assigning him in July, 1944, to their embassy in Budapest.

Throughout the last six months of the war, Wallenberg used his diplomatic cover, his boundless energy, and his incredible personal courage to outfox the Germans and their Hungarian Nazi allies. He worked night and day to develop and implement strategems that would save Hungarian Jews from the Nazi's "Final Solution." He developed a special Swedish passport and distributed them to Jews in danger of deportation to concentration camps. He set up protective houses in Budapest and succeeded in housing many Jews in safety.

Wallenberg worked behind the scenes to persuade war-weary German officers and Hungarians in official positions to spare the Jews, in return for leniency from the Allies after the war. His efforts were instrumental in cancelling an Adolph Eichmann-inspired last-minute plan to exterminate 70,000 Jews living in the Jewish ghetto in Budapest.



Members of the Swedish-American Raoul Wallenberg Committee of Chicago joined Chicago Major Harold Washington when he signed a special proclamation in a remembrance of Wallenberg planned for Chicago in April

When the Russians arrived in Budapest they discovered about 120,000 Jews still alive, the largest concentration of Jews to survive in any of the countries conquered or allied with Nazi Germany. Many of these, perhaps as many as 100,000, owe their lives directly to the rescue efforts of Raoul Wallenberg.

Wallenberg's story has no conclusive ending. He was arrested by the liberating Russian army in January, 1945. Although there were efforts to secure his release, the fate of Wallenberg remains a mystery. The Soviet authorities maintain that he died in prison in 1947. But persistant reports from released prisoners of the *Gulag* hint that he may still be alive today. Securing his release, or at the very least, a full accounting of what happened to him, is the purpose of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, headquartered in New York City. In October, 1981, Raoul Wallenberg was made a United States citizen by an act of Congress. It is hoped that this will add additional weight to the international effort to gain his release.

A tribute to a hero of biblical proportions

By Jon Anderson

Sweden, a land known for stability, scenery, smorgasbord and snow, is not a major player when it comes to international war heroes, but there is one man whose deeds, done in a six-month burst during the closing days of World War II, created a legend that caused more than one tearful moment in Chicago last week. He was, perhaps is, Raoul Wallenberg.

By any standards, he was remarkable. A Swedish businessman, he saved the lives of nearly 100,000 Hungarian Jews in the waning months of 1944, ignoring diplomatic niceties to create a network of "safe houses" in Budapest, a city of bombs, shellings and chaos. On Jan. 17, 1945, 3½ weeks after Soviet troops entered Budapest, he left for the suburban town of Debrecen in the company of two Soviet officers and disappeared.

Every year or so, there is another report about what became of him. Somewhere in the grim chilblained misery of the Soviet Gulag, perhaps in a Siberian mental hospital near the Chinese border, so the stories go, there is an elderly Swede. Prisoner tales—carried along in anonymous reports from Russian dissidents and smuggled out from time to time—tell of a man who exercises daily, rubs his chest with snow, maintains sturdy self-discipline and survives.

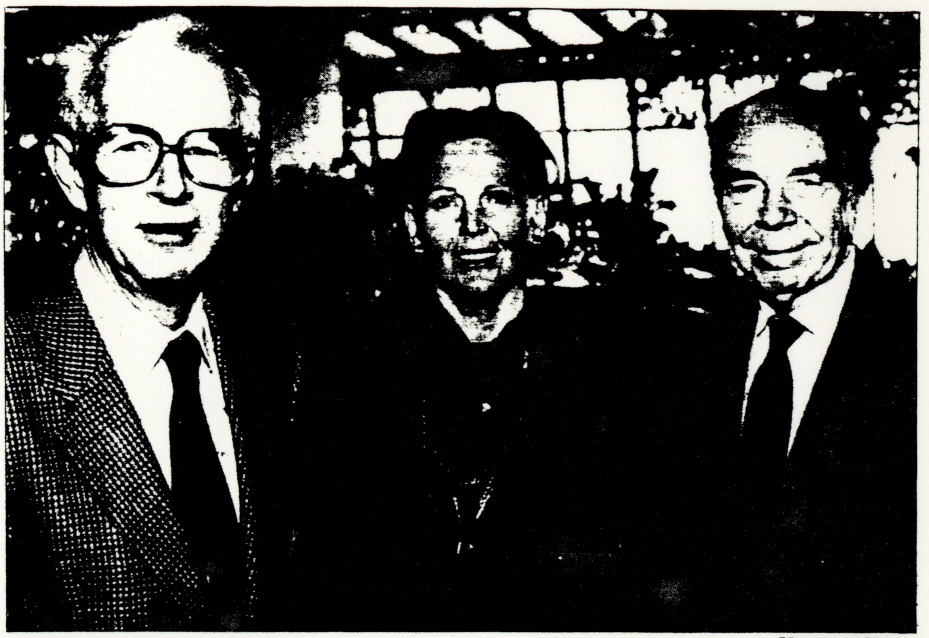
To keep flickering hopes alive and to ask for help in pushing for his release, two royal visitors, Prince Sigvard and Princess Marianne Barnadotte of Sweden, and Guy von Dardel, Wallenberg's half-brother, flew to Chicago last week for four days of events, including a musical tribute at Thorne Hall, 345 E. Chicago Ave., and an exhibit of Wallenberg photographs in the refurbished lobby of an office building at 222 N. LaSalle St.

"As far as we know, he is still in prison. We have reliable information he is still alive. The Russians persistently deny it," said von Dardel, in an interview. "I am hopeful, but of course Raoul would be 75 this year. Time is running out." Does he have new information? Yes, he hints, but "I prefer not to give details, because of the delicacy of negotiations." Still, there is no doubt, he adds, that the Soviet explanation ["their third version"] that Wallenberg died of a heart attack in 1947 is false.

For 42 years, while pursuing his own career as a physicist, von Dardel has sought to solve the mystery. He didn't believe the first story, that the Soviets did not know where Wallenberg was. Nor did he believe the second, that Wallenberg had been shot in the street-fighting in Budapest. Nor does he believe the third. "There was no death certificate, only a letter from a doctor, produced 10 years later, which mentioned his last name, not his first name, or his prison number or anything else," von Dardel argues. "My personal theory is that somebody in the Soviet hierarchy, probably well down, committed a mistake of some kind and wants to cover up."

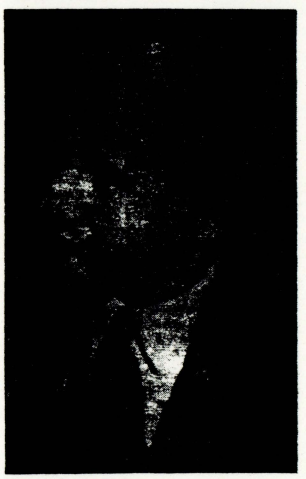
As von Dardel noted, Raoul Wallenberg had ties to the Midwest. He took a degree in architecture from the University of Michigan, where he canoed the Huron River, developed a love for opera and became a fan of Laurel & Hardy. Pictures from the time show a pale young man with dark hair and intense eyes.

A member of a famous and powerful Swedish family of bankers and diplomats, he returned to Sweden to settle, not very contentedly, into an import-export business. In 1944, when he was 32, the Swedish government, at the urging of the U.S. War Refugee Board, asked him to mount a one-man rescue effort of Jews in Hungary, one of the largest remaining European Jewish populations.



Tribune photo by Bill Hogan

Guy von Dardel [left], Princess Marianne Bernadotte and Prince Sigvard of Sweden visited Chicago to introduce an exhibit honoring Raoul Wallenberg, von Dardel's half-brother.



Raoul Wallenberg

Arriving in Budapest as a special attache to the Swedish embassy, he set up 32 "safe houses" and distributed thousands of special passports that he designed with crowns and crests to impress and confuse the often poorly educated Nazi troops. He boarded trains bound for death camps to pluck off prisoners. "He had no real authority. He bluffed his way through," says one man whom Wallenberg saved, Tom Lantos, now a congressman from California. "Anyone could have shot him to death and not answered for it. He was absolutely unfearful for himself. It was as if his courage was enough to protect him."

"What he did was of biblical proportions," noted President Reagan in 1981, signing a bill that made Wallenberg the second honorary citizen in U.S. history. [The other is Winston Churchill.] "The interesting thing is that he was only six months in Budapest," remembers Victor Aitay, co-concertmaster emeritus of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. "In history, six months is nothing. But he had such an impact in that six months that he will never be forgotten."

In December, 1944, Aitay, escaping for the second time from a labor camp, heard rumors that the Swedish legation was offering protection. He made his way there. Wallenberg gave him papers, a job as a switchboard operator and saved his life. Last week, in Thorne Hall, with Aitay leading the Raoul Wallenberg Tribute Orchestra, the Raoul Wallenberg Committee and the Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago mounted a 90-minute program to honor a man described as "a war hero who never wore a uniform or fired a gun."

It was an evening of memories and hope. One high point was the presentation of Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Awards to Marillyn Tallman and Pamela Braun Cohen, leaders of Chicago support for Soviet Jewry; the Rev. Charles Infelt, a Lutheran minister in the Cabrini-Green area; and John McDermott, founder and former editor of the Chicago Reporter. Others came when those who had known Wallenberg talked of him.

"He was kind, considerate, intelligent," said von Dardel. "He liked music, though he didn't play himself. He had a great sense of humor." Aitay remembered Wallenberg as a tall, good-looking man, never without a backpack. "He was always running. He never knew where he would eat or sleep. He went to the train stations. There were freight cars full of people. He brought many people back from deportation and probable execution."

Earlier, Prince Sigvard and Princess Marianne toured a Holocaust Memorial at the Spertus Museum, 618 S. Michigan Ave., and dedicated a plaque to Wallenberg. "We are great admirers of what he did, though we didn't know him personally," said the prince, a great-grandson of Britain's Queen Victoria, in an interview during what was his first trip to Chicago in 37 years.

Known as a designer for, among others, Denmark's Georg Jensen glass and silver works, the Prince has worked in silver, glass, refrigerators, carpets, cars and ships, among them the Swedish American Lines vessel Kungsholm, for which he designed a 110-seat observation lounge. "Raymond Loewy was my ideal when I started as a young man. I knew all those old designers," he said. "Now I'm retired and I paint. I enjoy it very much. I have my own place. It's great fun."

"His paintings are beautiful," said Princess Marianne, who fashioned her own career as an actress at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theater, playing in works by Strindberg, Shaw, Eliot and Shakespeare before she married the prince 26 years ago. Since her marriage, she has been involved in Swedish philanthropies aiding disabled persons, children with learning disabilities and young artists. In 1985, along with actress Gina Lollobrigida, she was selected to a list of 10 best-dressed women in the world and last fall she published her memoirs.

The story is a happy one, particularly for the prince, who went through considerable tumult, and two previous marriages, in his younger years, generating such news headlines as, "Swedish King Again Refuses to Forgive Prince and His Bride." The irked monarch, King Gustav, Sigvard's grandfather, a crack tennis player who disapproved of marital linkage between royals and commoners, later mellowed. So did Prince Sigvard, uncle to the present king of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustav.

Quiet-spoken, obviously moved, he addressed a reception last week at Spertus Museum, remembering that, while working as a film director at the UFA studios, he lived in Berlin as a young man during the Nazi rise to power in the 1930s. "Those were terrible days," he said. "Only now, as an old man, have I found time and words perhaps to understand those terrible events. Pray to God, it must never happen again." As for Raoul Wallenberg, he added, "Let us think about him. Let us never forget him."

Founded in 1976

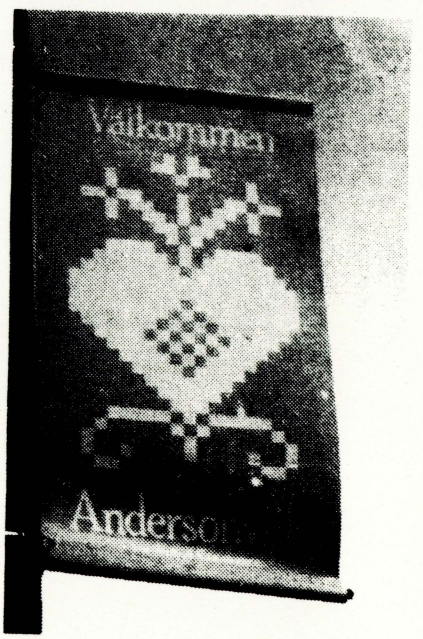
Swedish American Museum Aims for 1988



Swedish-American Museum Center Chairman of the Board, Sven Flodstrom (from left to right) and his wife Majken; and museum member and partner in Nelson World Travel, Martin Ahlm; and Barbro and George Ivar Pearson. Pearson is the President of the Central Swedish Committee of Chicago. (photo by J.M. Erickson)

The Museum has announced their second annual Galaxy Ball, to be held on Saturday, November 1st, 1986, at the new Henry Crown Space Center at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The dinner will honor the Honorable Franklin S. Forsberg, the former United States Ambassador to Sweden. Master of Ceremonies will be noted Chicago anchorwoman, Deborah Norville. Birgitta Bolling serves as benefit chairman for the dinner. Proceeds of the dinner ($125.00 each per ticket) and silent auction will benefit the Museum building fund.

The next major Museum gala fund-raiser will be a dinner in honor of Raoul Wallenberg, on April 1st, 1987 in Chicago. The dinner will officially open a month long exhibit on Wallenberg, and will involve major representation from the Jewish-American community.



The Andersonville neighborhood is taking pride in its Swedish heritage as shown by street banners in a Swedish, blue and yellow motif which welcomes visitors to the community.

Chicago

Swedish American Museum Aims for 1988

By James Erickson

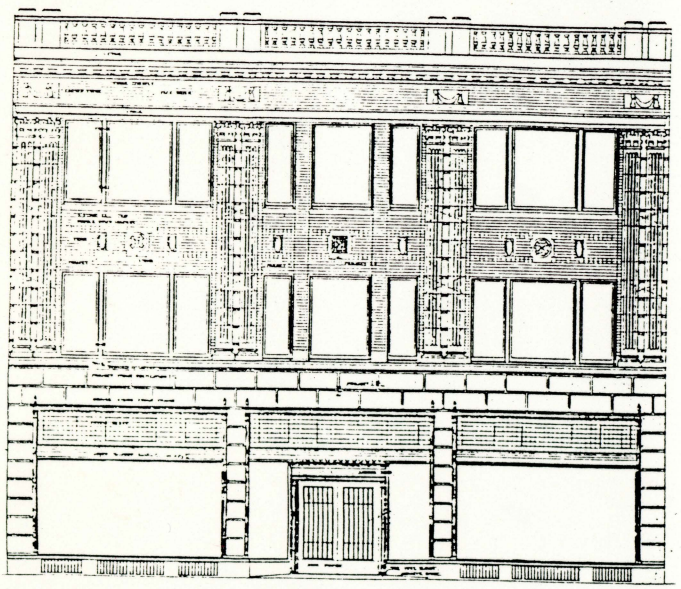
The Swedish-American Museum Center, located in Andersonville on Chicago's Northside, is gaining momentum in its aims to establish a new facility in time for the visit of His Majesty, Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden to dedicate the structure in April 1988.

The King's visit will coincide with nation-wide celebrations in honor of 350 years of contact between Sweden and America. The Chicagoland Swedish community's efforts for this celebration and royal visit have gained a definite focus with the museum project.

In anticipation of the royal visit and the creation of a center for Chicago Swedish activities, many volunteers who have kept the dream alive, and the museum open to the public.

The man responsible for the creation of the Museum was Andersonville businessman Kurt Mathiasson. Mathiasson was dismayed that when the king was planning a visit to Chicago in 1976 in honor of America's Bicentennial, that there wasn't a central museum for Swedes in a city which

The new Museum symbol.



The original architectural drawings of the Lind building have been located and are currently being used by the Museum Board in renovation plans. (drawings courtesy of the Museum).

have come forward to work on boards and committees. Chicago contractor, Sven Flodstrom, serves as the Chairman of the Board, over 24 board members. Kerstin Lane, was hired as Executive Director in 1985. "The plans are for 1988," said Lane, "but, before that date, much work has to be done."

An example of such work being completed comes from board member Jan Mueller, who prepared a new symbol for the museum which would "reflect the pride of two counties. The Swedish-American heritage is rich, strong and lasting. The combination of our national colors and the star signifies the harmony and splendor within our cultural and industrial relationships." Mueller described the new symbol as "harmonious, dynamic, and celebrative of the pride, strength, and achievement that history marks between our two countries."

The Swedish-American Museum Association of Chicago - SAMAC (recently the Museum Board adopted the name Swedish American Museum Center) was founded in 1976. Ten years later, the emerging musuem program stands as a tribute to a small group of Chicago Swedish-Americans was once the second largest Swedish city in the world after Stockholm. "I was ashamed," said Mathiasson, "where had all the Swedes gone. So, I decided to do something about it." Mathiasson did something allright, much to the amazement of others, Mathiasson organized a group of persons to prepare the log-cabin front Swedish-American Museum of Chicago at 5248 N. Clark Street. In 1976, King Carl Gustaf opened the Museum, and it is now the hope of many Swedish-Americans, that the King will once again open a new structure for the Museum Center in 1988.

At present, the Museum is located in a small storefront location which has a continual stream of visitors, including busloads of school children. Since Lane was hired as Executive Director, the Museum has also taken on the setting for the Museum office. "We need to create a new image in order to provide better programming, permanent and temporary exhibits," said Lane, "it's one thing to have dreams, but we need a larger space."

The Museum has taken an option on the Lind Hardware Building, at 5211 N. Clark Street, presently the home of Advance Refrigeration Company. The Musuem plans to exercise the option by February, 1987. Major architectural studies have been undertaken on this space by Museum board member and architect, Ron Olson.

The available space in the new building would be 24,000 square feet. The planned first phase of the facility would renovate the first floor and the basement. The basement would be used for offices, board room, library, storage, and a preparation room for exhibits. The first floor would house a museum exhibit space, with plans to accomodate temporary exhibits, a meeting area and a museum store. The top two floors would be expanded at a later date.

One major concern with the new museum location has been with a shortage of parking in the neighborhood. The city of Chicago has conducted a parking study and has recommended that the Andersonville business community is in need of parking. Lane and other Museum volunteers are now working with City Hall contacts to secure additional parking in the future. In the meantime, the Commercial Bank of Edgewater has made an agreement with the Museum to provide bank-parking lots for night-time Museum useage. The Museum would then provide escort service.

The Museum has been joined in their efforts to secure a new building and additional parking by civic leaders and organizations and Andersonville businesses. The Museum is viewed as an anchor to the redevelopment of the Andersonville community. Included in the list of active supporters is the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, the Commercial National Bank of Edgewater and Alderman Patrick O'Connor (40th ward) and Marion Volini (48th ward).

"The goal is not just to buy the building," said Lane, "but, to have a substantial endowment fund to guarantee the continued usage of the Museum Center. We would like to raise two million dollars." In order to achieve this goal, the Museum recently contracted with Alfred and Associates, a Chicago fund-raising firm who has now undertaken a feasibility study by interviewing members of, and persons connected to the Swedish-American community.

Continued



Kurt Mathiasson, founder of the Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago, is shown here in Viking costume at a recent event in honor of Leif Erikson Day, sponsored by the Museum and the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce. (photo by J.M. Erickson)

SCA **Swedish Council NEWS**

Publication of Swedish Council of America | Summer, 1986 | Number 35

Special Events – The Galaxy Ball



Illinois Governor James Thompson (right) was honored as Illinois Swedish-American of the Year at a banquet sponsored by the Swedish American Museum of Chicago on April 19. The presentation was made by the Museum's president Sven Flodstrom.

Vinland *Special Events* *January 1, 1987*

Galaxy Ball attracts stars to annual event



Master of Ceremonies Deborah Norville at the Galaxy Ball.

By James M. Erickson

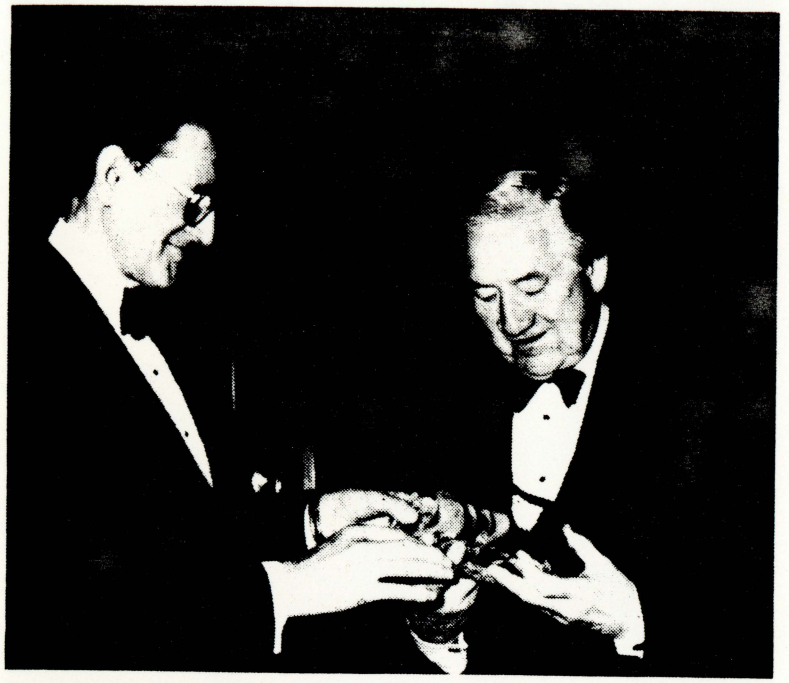
The second annual Galaxy Ball, sponsored by the Swedish American Museum Center of Chicago, was held on Saturday, 1 November 1986 at the Henry Crown Space Center at the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI). The annual fund-raising event with tickets at $125.00 per person attracted nearly 200 persons. Proceeds of the dinner were designated for the building fund of the Musuem.

The Galaxy Ball honored the former United States Ambassador to Sweden, Franklin S. Forsberg with a special presentation and award, made by Sven Flodstrom, Chairman of the Museum's Board of Directors. Forsberg has been the recipient of numercus Swedish-American awards in 1986, including from the VASA Order of America and the Swedish Council of America. Forsberg served as Ambassador from 1981 to 1985. He was joined at the Galaxy Ball by his wife, Ann Rountree.

* * *



Ulla and Bertil Brunk at the Galaxy Ball in Chicago.



Swedish American Museum Chairman Sven Flodstrom made a presentation to Ambassador Franklin S. Forsberg.

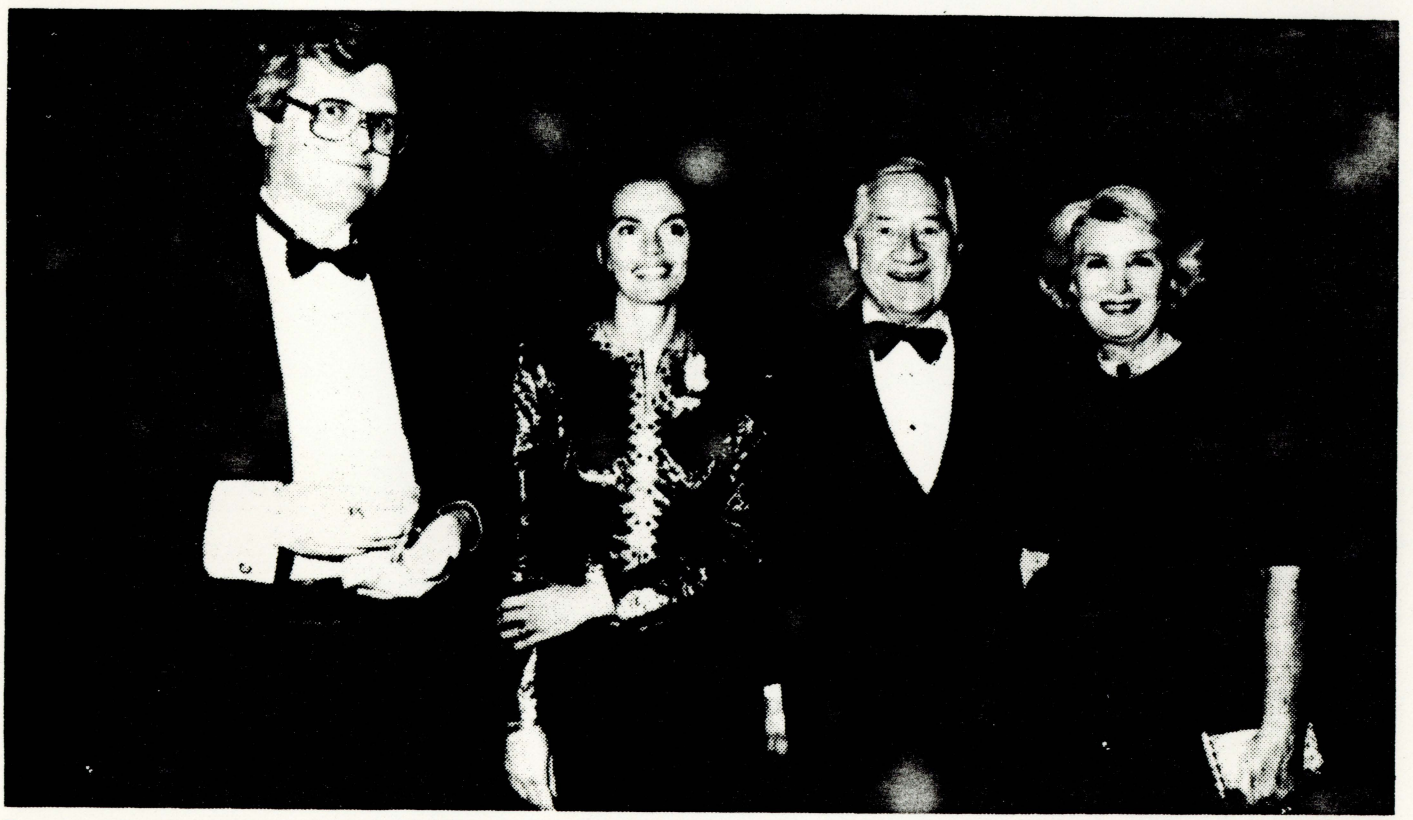
Master of Ceremonies for the Galaxy Ball was Deborah Norville, anchorwoman for NBC. Swedish-American Norville was a proud participant in the Galaxy Ball and impressed attendees with her charm, beauty and increasing knowledge of the Swedish language.

The Galaxy Ball benefit began with a festive champagne reception in the lobby exhibit area of the newly completed Henry Crown Space Center at the MSI. The reception was followed by a viewing in the OMNIMAX theatre of "The Dream is Alive." The dinner was catered by A-Scandinavian, Wikstrom's Delicatessen, and included a good selection of food and drink.

Following dinner and the presentation of awards and comments from visiting dignitaires, dancing began to the sounds of the Cy Race Orchestra. During the dancing, a silent auction was held of items donated to the Museum's benefit. In addition, the evening concluded with the drawing of the VasaLoppet Raffle which has been held throughout 1986 with the sale of tickets to benefit the Museum's building program.

The winner of the grand prize, two first-class tickets to Scandinavia via Scandinavian Airlines Systems (SAS) was none other than the wife of the guest of honor, Ann Forsberg. Forsberg had purchased the winning ticket at the dinner table hours before her luck proved sufficient to win roundtrip tickets to Scandinavia.

The Galaxy Ball was successfully chaired by Birgitta Bolling, with the honorable Nils R. Larsson, Consul General of Sweden in Chicago serving as the honorary chairman. Bolling was assisted by a group of numerous volunteers from the Museum Association.



Guests at the Swedish American Galaxy Ball included (from left to right) Tom and Birgitta Bolling, Benefit Galaxy Ball Chairman, and the guest of honor, Ambassador Franklin S. Forsberg and his wife Ann.

A Pulitzer-Lerner Community Newspaper

WEEK OF MARCH 3-4, 1987

Life in Edgewater

WANT doesn't want for contributors, activists

The functions of a neighborhood organization are as many and as varied as the members who join such a group. Their work can range from making community financial contributions to grassroots activism advocacy. At the Feb. 23 meeting of West Andersonville Neighbors Together, at First Evangelical Free Church, there was a bit of both.

The contribution came at the start of the meeting, when president **Ron Massengill** presented a $100 check to **Kerstin Lane**, director of the nearby Swedish-American Museum. Massengill said WANT decided last November to make the donation, in recognition of the museum's purchase of the Advanced Refrigeration building as their new location. The building is just across the street from the museum's current log-facade location at 5248 N.Clark St.

"We're excited to have bought the building." Lane said in accepting the check. "Currently, we have things stored in four different buildings" because their current location doesn't have room for their entire collection.



Karen Donnelly

Lane also explained some plans for the new facility. The museum will eventually have four floors. Along with its copious space, Lane said, the building holds historical significance. "It was built by Swedes, (designed) by a Swedish architect and, as many of you know, was built for Swedes."

Being considered for the facility are space for an art exhibit, a large space for temporary exhibits, a meeting hall for local groups, and a museum store. Lane also said the museum hopes to restore the original facade of the building.

An official opening ceremony is scheduled for April 1988, at which time it is hoped the Swedish king and queen can officiate the proceedings. The year will also hold historical significance, marking the 350th anniversary of Swedish people settling in the United States. Part of the new facility should be open to the public by Chrismastime, Lane said.

The contribution part done, the activism came after the meeting, when a smaller congregation of about eight WANT members met just outside the church. The outdoor reconvening was for an impromptu lesson in spotting unlocked parking meters, as taught by Massengill. He said he learned the technique by watching a TV newscast on the subject.

Pointing to a nickel-sized circle with two raised dots, he explained that a meter is locked properly when the dots are aligned horizontally. When they are aligned vertically, however, Massengill admonished the members to take down the number etched on the meter and report it to the city authorities.

By reporting these on a regular basis, Massengill said, the citizens could potentially save the city a great deal of money that could be lost to people who would pry open the unlocked meters and steal the change from them.

One more function that neighborhood organizations are famous for is recognizing the work of its members. And that also happened at the WANT meeting, when Massengill was surprised with a ceremonial gavel in recognition of his years of work with the group. The gift was the idea of WANT secretary **Hazel Robertson** and treasurer **Barbara Wood.**

* * *

One young Edgewater resident recently distinguished himself in a number of scholastic fields. Sixth-grader **Dean Radcliffe**, of the 5900 block of Greenview, a student at Skinner School, won the intermediate District 9 Young Authors contest.

His winning piece was entitled, "A Gruesome Tale of Horror." Young Radcliffe's talents aren't confined to the literature field; he is also a member of the school's Academic Bowl team as an alternate in the math competition.

Museum gets zoning, needs funds to move

Funding has become the primary issue in whether or not the Swedish American Museum will move to new, larger quarters.

The Andersonville fixture is currently at 5248 N. Clark Street. Museum officials still have an option to purchase a three-story building across the street and just to the south, at 5211 N. Clark.

Use of the potential site was thrown into question earlier this year when city zoning officials rejected a special use application on behalf of the museum for the building. This situation was rectified, however, when the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the special use last month.

"It seems all the obstacles are removed. Now it's a matter of money," said Kerstin Lane, the museum's executive director. "Within the next couple of months we're going to have to make a decision."

The building itself would cost about $200,000, but Lane said the main concern is having enough funds for renovation and long-term upkeep.

"There are certain things we would have to do" before the museum could be set up in the building, Lane said. New display cases would be a major project. "We have many (museum items) now in storage...In the new building we would have enough space for a permanent display, plus room for a display that would change regularly."

What museum officials hope to do, Lane said, is raise a sufficient amount of money that could be put into an endowment for general running expenses. A fund-raising company has been hired to look into ways of getting the initial money.

One such fund-raiser in the immediate future is the museum's second annual Galaxy Ball, a $125-per-ticket event on Nov. 1. This year, the event is being held at the new Crown Center of the Museum of Science and Industry. Lane said the Swedish Museum hopes to raise $20,000 from the ball.



THE SWEDISH MUSEUM was the site of a celebration on the recent Leif Erikson Day. Sonja Sterlov (left) and Teresa Cunningham, executive director of the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, distributed hats and maps to promote the area. (Photo by Stephen Carrera)

Vasaloppsåkare "fick" 178 000

Skövde (G-P): 67-årige Knut Flodström i Skövde "tjänade" 178 000 kronor när han gick i mål i årets Vasa-lopp.

— 2 000 kronor per kilometer. Fast jag ser inte ett öre av pengarna, skrattar Knut.

De 2,3 miljoner kronor som företag och föreningar satsat på Knut och tolv amerikaners Vasaloppsåkande går nämligen oavkortat till nya, större lokaler för Svenska museet i Chicago.

Det är Knuts bror Sven, byggmästare i Chicago, som förmått företag och föreningar att sponsra de tretton Vasa-loppsåkarna. För varje kilometer de tretton åkte har man åtagit sig att betala ut 2 000 kronor. Och eftersom alla tretton gick i mål så blir det en nätt behållning till Svenska museet.

☐ Kvarts miljon

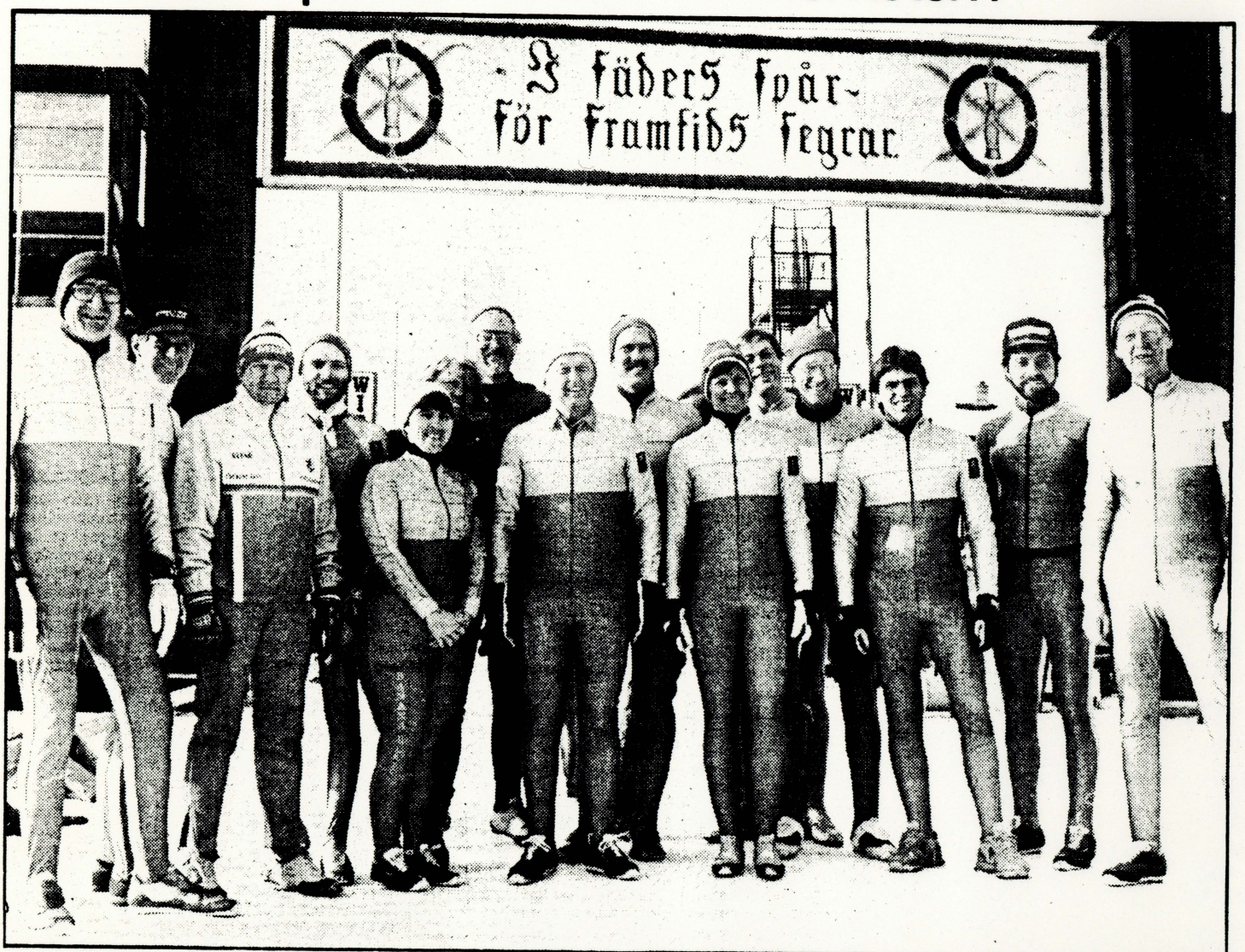
Sven åkte själv in en kvarts miljon till museet genom att fullfölja Vasa-loppet 1984. I år coachade han sitt miljonlag.

Svenska museet i Chicago invigdes av kung Carl Gustaf 1976. I de nya lokalerna blir det plats inte bara för museet, utan också för ett Swedish center där svenska firmor som vill etablera sig i USA kan ställa ut.

— Jag åkte Vasa-loppet 1963 och sa då aldrig mer. Jag är visserligen gammal orienterare med hygglig kondition, men trodde nog inte på ett nytt Vasa-lopp för min del. Men jag blev 7 629 och tjänade som sagt in en slant åt Svenska museet i Chicago på det, summerar Knut Flodström.

EBON KARLSSON

I fäders spår för 34000 kr kilometern



Här är gänget som tjänar över tre miljoner om de klarar av att åka Vasa loppet. Inte till sig själva dock utan alla pengarna går till ett "svenskhus" hemma i Chicago. Pengarna satsar chicagoföretag med sven skanknytning.

Foto: URBAN ANDERSSON

MORA. Det här gänget kör in drygt 34 000 kronor per kilometer de klarar i Vasaloppet.

Varenda krona går oavkortat till ett Svenskhus hemma i Chicago.

Ingen ska behöva glömma sina svenska rötter.

De är byggmästare, advokater, elektroingenjörer och annat smått och gott. Med ett gemensamt brinnande intresse: att samla ihop så mycket pengar att det räcker till att bygga ett Svenskhus i Chicago.

Därifrån kommer alla sjutton åkarna. Och nästan alla har sina rötter i Sverige.

Eldsjälen är Sven Flodström, 63, från Hälsingland, utflyttad till Chicago för 32 år sedan. Han startade en byggfirma och är i dag en välbärgad man.

Sven kom på den lysande idén att företag skulle få satsa pengar på honom när han för första gången åkte Vasaloppet för två år sedan.

– Då fick vi ihop grundplåten till Svenskhuset. Jag klarade de 89 kilometerna och fick ihop 30 000 dollar.

Den gången var han ensam. Nu har han sällskap av sexton. Och företagen i Chicago med svenskanknytning satsar.

– Om alla klarar Vasaloppet så kör vi ihop över tre miljoner kronor.

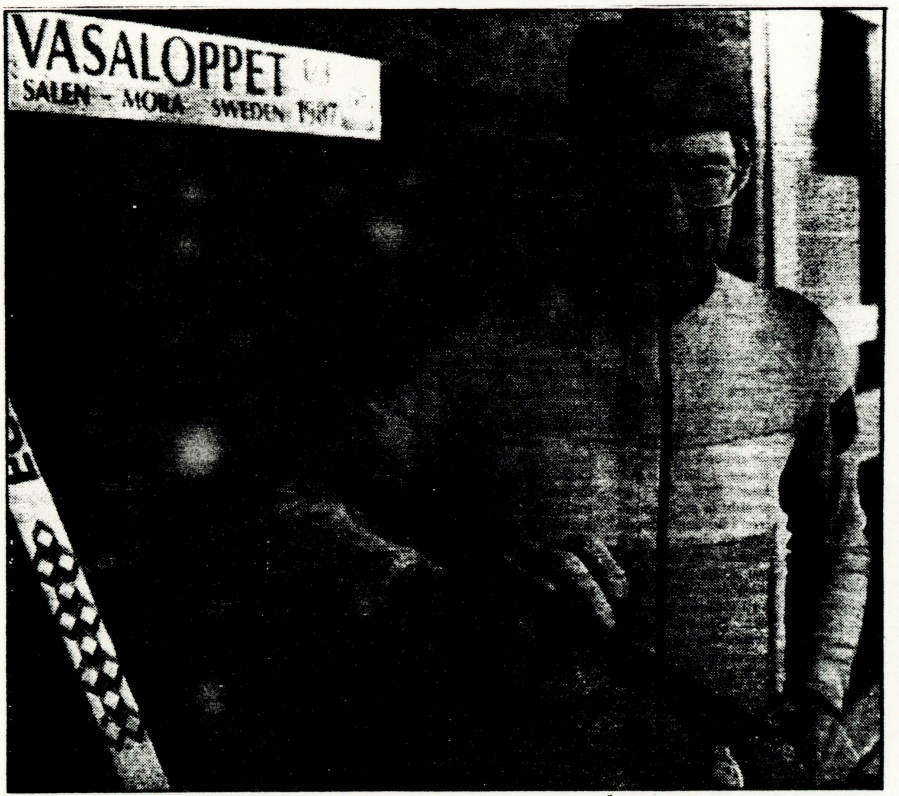
Sven Flodström har flera projekt på gång för att samla in pengar för svenskhetens bevarande i Chicago. I vår planeras en middag till Raoul Wallenbergs minne. Kuverten kostar 250 dollar, och Sven räknar med att få in 75 000 dollar. Raoul Wallenberg ska hedras med ett eget rum i Svenskhuset.

– När vi lyckats få ihop 150 000 dollar eller mer genom Vasaloppet och Sverigeanknytningar har en byggmästare i Chicago lovat att skjuta till det dubbla beloppet.

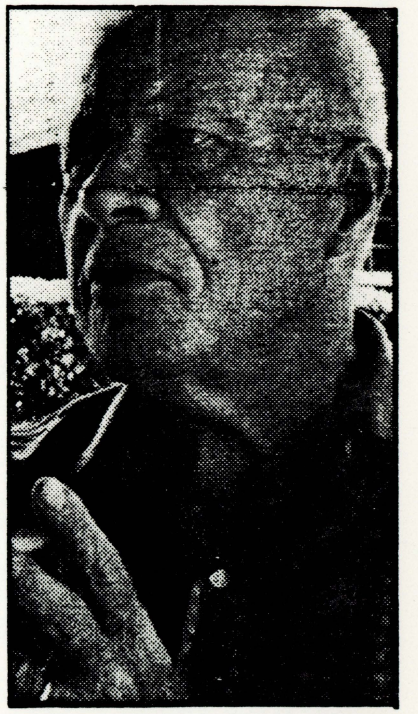
Jill Lindberg

AFTONBLADET
Fredag 28 februari 1986

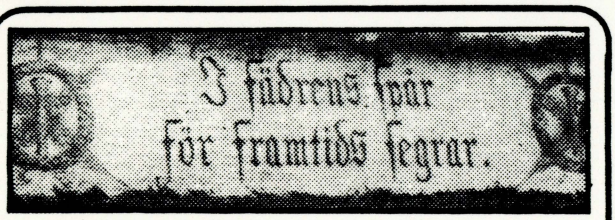
Benson åker Vasaloppet för Chicago och Småland



Stig Benson, brorson till den legendariske utvandraren Ragnar Benson från Älmhult i Småland, har kommit till Mora från Chicago för att åka Vasaloppet.



Ragnar Benson, Smålands kanske mest kände utvandrare, blev rik på sin byggfirma i Chicago.



Fädrens – vafalls?

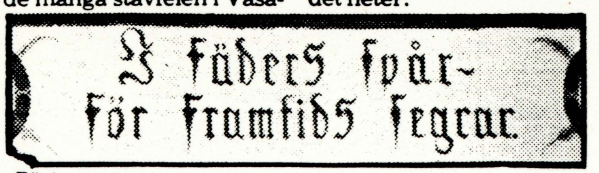
Vilket är rätt?

"I fäders spår" står det på stora Vasaloppsbanderollen, och den som ser en några decennier gammal bild tror inte sina ögon. Där står: "I fädrens spår."

Obestämd eller bestämd form? Tja, ingen vet – riktigt bestämt. Men man får en obestämd känsla av att de många stavfelen i Vasaloppet här fått sitt monument.

Så här säger veteranerna: Från början hette det fäders. Men "någon gång" blev det fädrens. Häromåret bytte vi tillbaka till fäders.

Så nu ska ingen längre behöva staka sig på vad det heter.



Fäders ska det va!

MORA. I trettio år har han bott i Chicago. Men Vasaloppsåkaren Stig Benson bryter på perfekt småländska.

Han är brorson till legenden Ragnar Benson, en av Sveriges mest kända utvandrare.

De med några år på nacken vet vem Ragnar Benson är.

Han utvandrade från Älmhult i Småland under depressionen på 1930-talet. Han slet hårt och byggde upp en byggfirma i Chicago.

1957, när affärerna länge gått lysande, blev han en kändis i Sverige. Han bjöd då sina trotjänare, de som varit med honom i den svåra och hårda starten i Chicago, på gratis resa till fädernesländet Sverige.

Hans brorson Stig, som nu är i Mora för att åka Vasaloppet och samla in pengar till svenskkulturen i Chicago, är personalchef i Ragnars byggföretag.

– Han var en märklig person. Ragnar tyckte att pengar inte skulle läggas på hög. De var till för att gödsla med. Ragnar gödslade större delen av sitt kapital på sin personal. De som varit honom trogna under många år tjänade kolossalt bra. Och den metoden var säkert riktig. Ragnar hade en otroligt bra och lojal personal.

Hemma i Chicago har Stig sin svenska hustru Ingrid och fyra barn. Vartannat år reser han till Sverige för att hälsa på släkt och vänner under en tvåveckorsperiod.

Då njuter han av mammas inlagda sill och det han saknar mest – den svenska naturen.

Och Stig talar en perfekt småländska.

– Jag kanske klarar det något bättre än Anita Ekberg klarar skånskan, säger han glatt.

Jill Lindberg



CHICAGOLAND SKI VASALOPPET

Seventeen cross-country skiers from Chicago area, who call themselves the Banana Belt Skiers, flew to Stockholm to participate in the Vasaloppet, the world's largest cross-country ski race. The Banana Belt Skiers, all of Swedish extraction, represent many professions and age groups.

The Chicago Swedish American Museum Association is raising money to create a Swedish Center in Chicago and a lottery based on the Vasaloppet has been created for this purpose. Those people pledging money on the number of kilometers skied by the 17 entrants will be automatically entered in a lottery for such prizes as a trip for two to Scandinavia on SAS, a fur coat, crystal, etc.

SUNDAY STAR
Chicago, IL *May 10, 1987*

Svithiod gives $ for museum

The Independent Order of Svithiod, a Scandinavian fraternal organization based on the Northwest Side, recently presented a check for $5,360 for the proposed Swedish-American Museum, to be relocated into the former Lind Hardware Building at 5200 N. Clark St.

Henry Sanderson, grandmaster of the order, presented the check to Sven Flodstrom, president of the Swedish-American Museum Association of Chicago. The check represents donations in amounts small and large by Svithiod's members.

Ann Sather's to open March 7

Ann Sather-Andersonville, 5207 N. Clark St., will hold its grand opening starting with cocktails at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

Billed as an "Evening With Nils and His Admirers," the event will feature the unveiling of a series of 12 paintings depicting the story of Nils, a popular figure in Swedish folklore. Sigmund Arseth, a renowned Scandinavian artist, was commissioned to do the artwork.

Also to be featured is Swedish opera singer Lennart Backstrom, who will sing some musical selections.

The local restaurant is the first branch restaurant of the original Ann Sather's on Belmont Avenue and replaces the old Villa Sweden at the Clark Street address.

The Sunday Star

Sunday, September 6, 1987 Lerner Newspapers—A Subsidiary of The Pulitzer Publishing Co.

Royal Visit and Museum Center Dedication



QUEEN SYLVIA AND KING CARL GUSTAF XVI

Royalty duo due

King Carl Gustaf XVI and Queen Sylvia, his consort, of Sweden, will grace the official dedication ceremony of the Swedish American Museum scheduled to open at 5211 N. Clark St. next spring.

The Swedish royals will be guests of the Swedish American Museum Board and will view a small parade of ethnic groups along Clark prior to the dedication ceremonies, said Kirsten Lane, director of the museum.

Groups from Sweden, Swedish Americans and other groups, has been invited to take part in the festivities, she said. Details of the royals two-hour visit in Andersonville, a former enclave of Swedish American businesses and residents, haven't been worked out.

Lane said the couple will be in Chicago for one day as guests of the city and will be guests of honor at a dinner reception that evening at the Field Museum. Their Chicago visit is part of a 17-day tour of this country.

The king alone had earlier visited the North Side, stopping at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., in 1976 on Easter Sunday.

In 1982, both monarchs visited at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 3938 W. Belleplaine, as guests of the Rev. Ross Larson, pastor, and Per Hugo Kristensson, president of the Swedish Cultural Society.

RogersPark EdgewaterNews

Wednesday, September 2, 1987 Lerner Newspapers—A Subsidiary of The Pulitzer Publishing Co.

A Pulitzer-Lerner Community Newspaper

Life in Edgewater



Karen Donnelly

Having guests always takes some sort of planning. But when the visitors are royalty, the planning involves something more than setting an extra place at the table. Such things as international protocol, parade planning, and security come into play.

The group of people preparing for an upcoming visit by the King and Queen of Sweden to Edgewater know that.

King Carl XVI and **Queen Sylvia** of Sweden will come to Clark Street next April 19 to officiate at the opening of the new Swedish-American museum there.

The committee preparing for the royal visit includes neighborhood residents, local merchants and businessmen, and members of the museum's board.

They plan to mark the parade route with new lamppost banners in royal blue and yellow, incorporating an image of the royal crown and monogram. Local artist **Nancy Snyder** presented some designs for the banner at a committee meeting last week.

Other people helping plan the visit include local residents **Anne Basye, Jill Jahns, Cathy Buscemi** and **Ron Massengill**; local businessmen **Ken Birchard, Bud Wyman** and **Frank Corbett**; aldermanic representatives **Eloise Howaniec** and **Don Hohenadel**; museum members **Barbro Pearson, Ivar Pearson** and **Steve Bergstrom**; and the museum's founder, local merchant **Kurt Mathiasson.**

In Brief

Chamber to meet in Andersonville

The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce will discuss a number of activities and hear reports at a membership meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Crooners on Clark, 5101 N. Clark St.

On the agenda are revival of the street-sweeping program, progress report on the Swedish American Museum, festivities for the king and queen of Sweden's visit to Andersonville, Leif Ericsson Day and St. Martin Goose Day.

RogersPark EdgewaterNews

Program Development



Photo by Sheila Malkind
Fiddlin' around: Jaime Haas.

Andersonville mix 'n' match

When we went to an opening-night party a while ago at the Fiery Clock Face, 5311 N. Clark St., a second-hand book store in Andersonville, we saw a big crowd listening raptly to storyteller Alice Rubio weaving some tales.

Rubio, a product analyst, is a member of the Storytellers Guild of Chicago. She came to the guild five years ago to help organize it, and five months after listening to others she found the courage to tell stories herself.

The Fiery Clock Face, which also has a large selection of '60s folk music, encourages readers to sit around an old plank table to browse through books. In a special section, children were ensconced in pint-sized chairs, mesmerized by "The Great Hamster Hunt" and "Where the Wild Things Are."

Outside, chewing a homemade cookie and clutching our new books, we found manager Jocelyn McKee; her husband, Jared, from County Clare; and Steve West on the penny whistle playing Irish music. Jocelyn's brother, Jaime Haas, performed with the Ravenswood Morris Dancers.

One neighbor said the area had gone through lots of changes, "all for the good." There has been an influx of Assyrians and Latinos, he said, who get along "just fine" with their Swedish-American neighbors. Evidence was just around the corner at 1480 W. Berwyn Ave., where Reza's Store, a Persian grocery, sits between the Health Connection and a complex of stores called the Landmark of Andersonville.

Reza's sells everything from cornflakes to Persian teas, with pistachios, halvah and tourshi letih (eggplant mixed with hot peppers, garlic and vinegar) in between. A customer named Azita gave us a recipe for reshtah poloh: sautee raisins in a little margarine with sugar, then mix with already-cooked rice and Persian noodles. When we left with our purchases, Ghodrat, the clerk, handed us a recipe for pomegranate stew.

Next door, sisters Bea Clipps and Barbara Steven were celebrating the opening of the Health Connection with family and customers. Someone confided that the young woman at the register, Gina Magis, 22, was Ms. Andersonville of 1986. The store has vitamins and natural foods, plus eggless mayo for low-cholesterol diets.

Said Bea Clipps: "We were raised in this area, and I moved away for a while. But now we're all back together."



St. Lucia

CAREFULLY PLACING A crown of candles on the head of Ingrid Helgeson after the annual St. Lucia parade in Andersonville Saturday is Ingrid Nyholm. (Photo by Tom Bartholomew)

Life in Edgewater

'Tis the season to be sharing



Karen Donnelly

Clark Street traffic came to a standstill at twilight Dec. 13, as community people gathered outdoors in frigid weather to celebrate a holiday Festival of Lights.

The festival, sponsored by the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, included a parade down Clark from Rosehill to Foster and a community caroling party. Later that evening people gathered again at the nearby Ebenezer Lutheran Church for a service in honor of St. Lucia, whose feast day is celebrated in several countries on Dec. 13.

Heading up the parade was Ms. Andersonville 1986, **Gina Magis**, braving the cold weather with good humor as she rode in an open 1952 MG replica. The bright-red roadster was driven by its owner, area resident **John Stone**. Also in the parade were Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, alias area residents **Joe Kauss** and **Martha Pullen**.

Bringing up the rear of the parade was a vintage 1951 Mack Pumper firetruck, courtesy of Local 2 of the firefighters union. The driver, **Tom Mulkerrius**, is a friend of parade master Corbett. Last-minute entries in the parade were **Danny Clucas**, with his children **Danny Jr. and Erin**. They had been on their way to watch the parade when Mulkerrius, a friend of Clucas's, asked them to join him in the firetruck.

Life in Edgewater

Bell-ringing ceremony revives old tradition



Karen Donnelly

Dominick and Hilda Lalamia gazed upon the sheafs of photos, clippings, and newsletters accumulated over 20 years' time. The memorabilia is about Dominick and on the neighborhood he has lived in all his life.

Dominick's fame in the area came about through the most mundane of activities — street cleaning.

For more than a decade the Edgewater resident and former tavern owner rallied his fellow Clark Street merchants to sweep, scrub, and pick up in front of their shops, using as a rallying cry something that eventually became a symbol of the neighborhood — a ringing bell.

Earlier this month Dominick was applauded by local residents and merchants during a revival, after a 10-year hiatus, of the bell-ringing summons to the streets.

It was 1964 when Dominick first went up and down Clark Street, at the sprightly age of 70. The idea for the bell-ringing grew from a discussion he'd had with neighborhood optometrist, **Dr. Grant Johnson.**

Photographs from that time show Dominick with a constant smile, a bell in one hand, a water hose for spraying the walks wrapped around the opposite arm. Some photos show him with other merchants — many who've moved away — brooms and pushcarts in hand. Looking at the 20-year-old photos, one is struck by how little the building facades along Clark Street have changed — and by how much everyone seemed to enjoy the cleaning.

The bell-ringing and street cleaning became as indicative of the neighborhood as the little flags (which bore the neighborhood name and a handbell, of course) Dominick used to put up on the street lamps. More photos show various "Miss Andersonvilles" from the '60s, each holding a beribboned broom instead of a bouquet. Old neighborhood newsletters praised his work: "In rain, sleet, or snow, the bell shall be rung," Hilda read, "and it was true! He was out whatever the weather." Another comment read, "It is your spirit that keeps Andersonville alive."

What is surprising about Dominick is that he, while most of the shopkeepers of his time, is Italian. One newspaper clipping cited this fact as indicative of the multiethnic cooperation in Andersonville, which even now is perceived as a heavily Scandinavian area.

Dominick was out every day, without pay, until a stroke quelled much of his activity in 1977. Now 93, he doesn't talk much or move around as fast as he used to. But he was emphatic about the recent reemergence of the bell-ringing ceremony, and enjoyed the first Clark Street cleanup procession in 10 years on Oct. 10. This time around, though, he sat back; **Marlys Bucholtz** did the bell-ringing.

It was work, admitted the man who spent a good portion of his golden years in neighborhood service, "but I liked it."

NORDSTJERNAN SVEA

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CHICAGO NEWS

The Bellringer was back in Andersonville!

On October 10 the Andersonville Leif Erikson Day Celebration took place. This year's festivities combined two exciting highlights – the restoration of the long-standing tradition of the Andersonville Bellringer March, signaling all merchants to leave their shops and sweep the sidewalks clean, plus stage presentations and entertainment in honor of Leif Erikson.

The resumption of this unique community ritual (which will now be conducted weekly after an absence of 10 years) renews neighborhood pride in keeping Andersonville the cleanest village in Chicago. Special ceremonial brooms (decorated in traditional Swedish colors) was used by all merchants for the occasion.

The Bellringer's March began at 10:00 am. Joining in the March was the 48th Ward Alderman Kathy Osterman and the 40th Ward Alderman Patrick O'Connor, marching Vikings and colorful accordionist Ernie Sandquist, plus escorts garbed in traditional costumes. They led the Bellringer on a sidewalk parade commencing at Berwyn on Clark, continuing north to Bryn Mawr and then south to Argyle.

Stage entertainment continued at Berwyn and Clark at 11:00 am after the March. It was hosted by Austin Wyman, President of the sponsoring Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, and included County Commissioner Carl Hansen speaking on the restoration program of the Viking ship in Lincoln Park, and costumed Swedish singing and dancing groups. Kerstin Lane, Excecutive Director of the Swedish American Museum also described the development of the Museum and the plans underway for the dramatically expanded new Museum location in Andersonville.

Immediately following the stage events, Selma Jacobson presented a vivid depiction of life as a Viking Women at the Swedish American Museum at 5248 N. Clark.

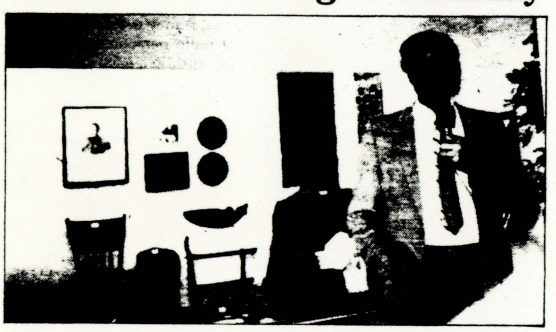
Viking and Swedish costumes abounded. Literature on the Vikings was available. Raffle tickets helping fund the new Swedish American Museum and the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce were sold by neighborhood merchants. The first prize in the raffle was a 1987 Saab automobile, the second prize a trip for two to Sweden.

This was an exciting day in Andersonville (one of Chicago's most colorful ethnic villages) as we embraced restored traditions and neighborhood pride.

Vinland 15 June 1987

Swedish-American display

In honor of Chicago's birthday



The Swedish Consulate General, in cooperation with the Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago, in honor of Chicago's 150th birthday, have arranged an exhibit of periodic items and possessions that were brought by Swedish immigrants to the Chicago area.

Sven Flodstrom, Chairman of the Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago Board of Directors (pictured above) spoke at the opening of the exhibit.

The exhibit was opened on 12 May in the presence of officials from the City of Chicago and will be on display in the office of the Consulate General until 30 June 1987. The exhibit can be seen at 150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1250 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Other events are planned– information about them and the exhibit many be obtained by contacting Kerstin Pulliam at the Consulate General at (312) 781-6262.

About 30 Andersonville residents gathered Oct. 15 to learn all about *tomtes, smallkaramels,* and other ethnic holiday decorations, as the Swedish American Museum of Chicago sponsored its second annual Christmas ornament-making class.

Vereen Nordstrom and Maud Svendahl-Winiczay, co-chairmen of the museum's education committee, led the crafts class. A tomte, Nordstrom explained, is a "Santa's helper," which the class made from bits of yarn.

Svendahl-Winiczay showed the group how to make the smallkaramel, which translates loosely into "pop-candy." The fringed paper tubes hold a candy or prize and look similar to old-fashioned party favors that pop when pulled apart.

The class also made small Swedish-style dolls and wove heart baskets out of paper.

"Last year we did straw ornaments also," Nordstrom said. "And I have some ideas for next year's class already."



Scandinavian sweep

IT WAS THE invasion of the brooms and bells Saturday as the merchants and residents of Andersonville celebrated Leif Erickson Day with music, costume and a pledge to clean the walks in front of their Clark Street shops each day when a traditional bellringer chimes the call. (Photo by Tom Bartholomew)

Sunday, October 19, 1986 Lerner Newspapers—



Spinning a yarn

DECKED OUT IN traditional Viking dress—all in keeping with last weekend's celebration of Leif Erikson Day in Andersonville, 80-year-old Selma Jocobson explains to visitors at the Swedish Museum, 5248 N. Clark St., how wool was spun before there was a spinning wheel. (Photo by Stephen J. Carrera)

Bellringer marches back



VIKINGS, SWEDISH COSTUMES and a ritual street-sweeping will be highlights of Andersonville's Leif Ericson Day celebration Saturday, Oct. 10.

This year's Andersonville Leif Ericson Day Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 10, is restoring the tradition of the Bellringer March — signaling all merchants to leave their shops and sweep the sidewalks clean.

The resumption of this community ritual, which is to be conducted weekly after an absence of 10 years, is aimed at stirring pride in keeping Andersonville clean. Ceremonial brooms in traditional Swedish colors will be used for the occasion.

The Bellringer's March begins at 10 a.m. Joining the march will be Ald. Kathy Osterman (48th), Ald. Patrick O'Connor (40th), plus escorts garbed in traditional costumes. The sidewalk parade begins at Berwyn Avenue on Clark Street, continuing north to Bryn Mawr Avenue and then south to Argyle Street.

Stage entertainment continues at 11 a.m. At Berwyn and Clark, hosted by Austin Wyman, president of the sponsoring Andersonville Chamber of Commerce. County Commissioner Carl Hansen is to speak on the restoration of the Viking ship in Lincoln Park. Costumed Swedish singing and dancing groups will perform. Kerstin Lane, executive director of the Swedish American Museum, will also describe the development of the museum and the plans under way for the expanded museum in Andersonville.

Immediately following the stage events, Selma Jacobson will present a depiction of life as a Viking woman at the Swedish American Museum at 5248 N. Clark.

Literature on the Vikings will be available. Raffle tickets helping fund the new Swedish American Museum and the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce will be sold by neighborhood merchants. The first prize in the raffle is a 1987 Saab automobile, and the second prize is a trip for two to Sweden.

Vikings plan to turn over new Leif with celebration



LYNN VOEDISCH

Who got here first? That's the provocative question that a lot of pugnacious folks start asking around mid-October. Italians and Scandinavians square off for the annual Christopher Columbus-Leif Ericson tussle as they argue about who discovered America. Most academic types agree that the Norseman probably did get to the New World first, but traditionalists insist that Columbus is the official discoverer of America.

Whichever way you look at it, Chris has the advantage. His holiday will be well-celebrated on Monday with parades and a holiday for schoolchildren and federal employees. Leif's day, officially celebrated Oct. 9, is almost universally ignored. To make sure that Chicagoans don't forget the seafaring Vikings, the Swedish-American Museum will host free Leif Ericson Day festivities tomorrow. Swedish, Norwegian and Danish music, costumes and food will be presented from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the museum, 5248 N. Clark (728-8111), in the Andersonville neighborhood.

Providing information on the hardy Vikings will be members of the Viking Ship Restoration Committee, chaired by Cook County Commissioner **Carl R. Hansen.**

"It doesn't have to detract from Christopher Columbus to say the Leif Ericson did something," Hansen said. "Maybe Ericson Day is too close to Columbus Day. It would have been better to pick a more appropriate day, like June 21, the Scandinavian midsummer."

Rather than ruffling the feathers of their Italian neighbors, Hansen and crew are dedicated to educating the public about Viking culture—and about the Viking ship that languishes in Lincoln Park. (Its dragon head and tail are housed out of sight in the Museum of Science and Industry.)

The ship in question, which rests in an open-sided shed south of the Children's Zoo, was built as an exact replica of one of the first Viking ships unearthed in Norway. Builder Magnus Andersen and a crew of 12 sailed the replica across the Atlantic and through inland waterways to Chicago for the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

After the big show, the ship sailed to New Orleans and back. At the turn of the century, it was nearly destroyed. Since 1920, it has been lodged in Lincoln Park. The Viking Ship Restoration Committee is seeking $250,000 to bring the ship to its former glory. A permanent home also will be necessary to keep the restored ship in perfect condition.

So on Leif Ericson Day, Hansen and friends will be handing out Viking ship pins to contributors and drumming up financial support for the restoration project.

"This is probably the best Viking ship in existence in the world," Hansen said. "To get anything better, you have to go back a thousand years, and those ships are all in fragments."

Sorry, Pinta, Nina and Santa Maria. It sounds like Leif and company have about 500 years on you.



Wikstrom joins Astrid Strom in sweeping the sidewalk as Sam Yalda pours the soapy liquid during the twice-weekly chore.



Ingvar Wikstrom shows a customer several potato sausages made at his deli

A taste of Sweden

One in a continuing series on the people who are the fiber of Chicago's ethnic tapestry.

Photos by Carl Hugare



FACES
OF CHICAGO

Ingvar Wikstrom doesn't advertise his delicatessen very widely, but somebody has put out the word. "I got here one morning at 9 o'clock and there were people from Dallas, Nashville and Miami all waiting for me to open," he says.

Buses arrive from the Quad Cities and from Milwaukee to sample the Swedish delicacies available in the shop bearing Wikstrom's name. He says he has had customers from "almost every state in the union," attributing his wide-ranging success on "word of mouth, I guess." Although the Andersonville neighborhood is only "about 27 percent Scandinavian" these days, customers who have moved to the suburbs still come back to visit Wikstrom.

When Wikstrom came to the United States in 1950 as an exchange student at Augustana College in Rock Island little did he realize he would be coming back to make the Midwest his home.

Admiring the freedom he found here, he came back to visit several times. "Whenever I would go home I would find that I missed the U.S.," he says now.

Finally in 1959, he and his new wife, Alfhild, came to the U.S. for good, taking over a delicatessen and catering business the following year at Touhy and Ridge Avenues.

That led, 15 years later, to the revival of Schott's delicatessen in the heart of the Swedish Andersonville neighborhood. Reopened at 5247 N. Clark St. with Wikstrom's name, the deli doubles as A-Scandinavian American Catering, and this year Wikstrom added a smoked salmon business to the lineup.

Although many of the food items Wikstrom carries are imported from Scandinavian countries, every item on the catering menu is made from scratch in the deli's kitchen.

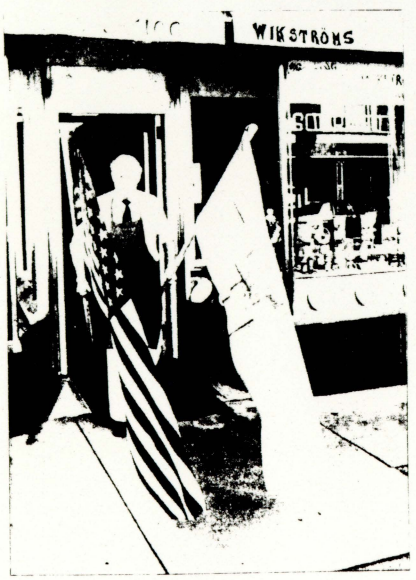
One of Wikstrom's specialties, almost naturally, is Swedish meatballs. "There are a lot of recipes for meatballs," he says. "The secret is to get the spices in the right combination and to fry them in butter, not margarine." He uses ground pork in combination with beef and veal and spices them with onions, allspice, sugar and salt. A few bread crumbs and some eggs are used to bind the ingredients.

He also makes potato sausage, which originated many years ago when meat was too expensive for the average Swedish family. Potatoes were used to make the meat stretch, Wikstrom explained, but today, he uses only a little potato plus potato flour as a binding element. Wikstrom's culinary education came as a his upbringing on a farm watching his mother and grandmother. Later, he worked at hotels and restaurants in Sweden.

Wikstrom says he and his wife are passing the ethnic traditions to their son and two daughters, who have expressed a desire to take on the business one day.



Alfhild Wikstrom and Astrid Warneck [right] shape meatballs that chef Wikstrom arranges in a fry pan.





Wikstrom presides over employee coffee before the work day begins. At left, he opens for business by placing American and Swedish flags in front of the shop at 5247 N. Clark St., where the delicatessen-catering operation has been located since 1975.



A LITTLE rain makes for togetherness as fairgoers huddle beneath a tent and wait for the sun to break through.

Fun fest for Andersonville

There was food and more food, music and lots of it, and all sorts of entertainment for all sorts of kids — the little kind and the grownup kind. Of course, in typical Chicago fashion, there also was all kinds of weather, but Midsummerfest '87 triumphed over the rains to provide a weekend of fun and food to thousands of participants.

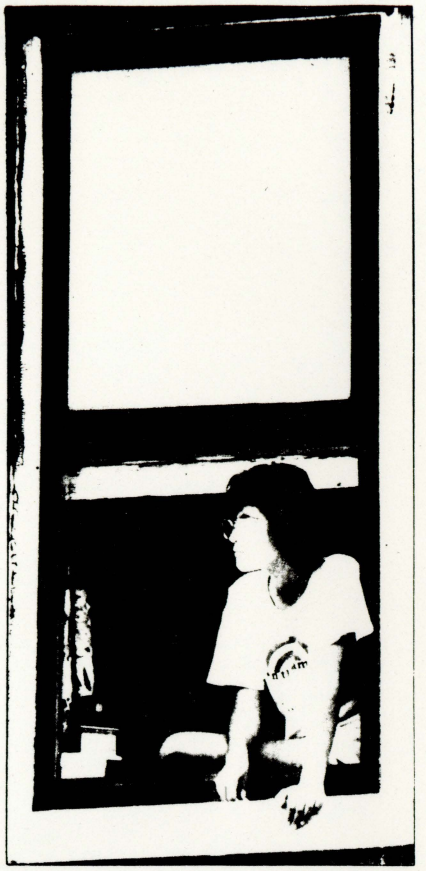
Sponsored by the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, the gala drew funseekers to Clark Street between Foster and Catalpa from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 20, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 21.

Music ranged from blues to rock to pop to jazz, with a touch of what Andersonville's known for from the Swedish Trio. Edibles were equally eclectic, with Swedish treats competing with Middle Easterm delicacies, Vietnamese fare and good old American ice cream.

Live entertainment — planned for the kids but enjoyed by everyone — included a mime, a theater group, a dance troupe, a gymnastics team, a bicycle act, a karate exhibition, face painting, a petting zoo and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Needless to say, and certainly at the risk of sounding trite, a good time was had by all. After all, what's a little rain when you're having fun?

Photos by Tom Bartholomew



ONE CLARK STREET resident has a bird's eye view of Midsummerfest '87, but sooner or later she's certain to succumb to temptation and join the fun.



ERNIE SANDQUIST and his Scandinavian trio lend an ethnic flavor to the weekend's menu of musical entertainment.



CROWNED WITH DAISIES, Kristin Linnea Van Westenbrugge serves treats prepared at the Svea Restaurant.

THERE'S ALWAYS time to take a little off the top, especially at $3 a head, you should excuse the expression.

