



THE

# SVITHIOD

JOURNAL

Vol. 80

December, 1980

No. 12

## Svithiod Observes Centennial with Pageant



**All Chicago Area Lodges Participate  
in Portrayal of Order's 100-Year History**

## Centennial Pageant Proves Successful, Thanks to Hard-Working Committee

Everyone applauded as the final curtain fell on the Svithiod Centennial Pageant, held at Mather High School, Chicago, on Sunday, October 19, 1980. Over 500 were in attendance to voice their approval of the historic event written and narrated by Charlotte Campbell and directed by Bettie Fjortoft.

Credit for this ambitious undertaking must go to the officers and members of the Centennial Committee, which accomplished much in a little time under the knowledgeable and inspired leadership of Edna J. Hofverberg who served as chairman of that committee. She was assisted by three vice chairmen from various areas of the city. They were: Robert Wedberg, Southside; Vice Grand Master Marie Larson, Westside and June Bolinder, Northside. The Secretary and treasurer of the committee were Inez Johnson and Lillian Pedersen respectively.

After Edna Hofverberg and Grand Master Harold G. Ekman had extended the official welcome, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve 2nd Battalion, 24th Division, presented the colors in an impressive ceremony.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the "Parade of Banners" in which many lodges in the Independent Order of Svithiod, participated. As the music was played each banner bearer would enter the auditorium from the rear and, with banner held aloft, proceed to the front of the stage where the banners were placed alongside of each other. Prominently displayed on the stage was the original and highly ornate banner of Svithiod Lodge No. 1. Other lodges that could no longer show their original banners created new ones. Many of them were handmade and ingeniously designed.

The Pageant consisted of four scenes and a Grand Finale. Scene I portrayed an early meeting of Svithiod Lodge No. 1 where a group of properly mustached and bearded men sat about a table and dispensed with the business at hand. The balance of this scene was turned over to the group called Forgat-Mig-Ej (Forget-me-not children's club). The director of the club is Margie Fleischman-Karl. She led the boys and girls who, dressed in Swedish costumes, sang several songs including a few popular Swedish numbers. As only giggly, wiggly youngsters can, they won the hearts of the audience. Yes, they were cute, but they were capable.

The dedication ceremony of the Svithiod Old People's Home at Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota, and a typical Svithiod Day Outing were re-lived in

Scene 2. Also participating in this scene was the Chicago Swedish Male Chorus, now in its 42nd year. Under the talented leadership of their personable Wayne Spies, they brought a high degree of professionalism to a program mostly made up of amateurs. In this old-time scene, many of the singers wore moveable mustaches which changed angles every time the singers opened their mouths. Some of the king-size cookie dusters almost fell off, thus creating a third-dimension effect. However, their varied repertoire was acknowledged by rousing applause.

After the audience returned from an intermission, the curtain rose on Scene 3 which featured auditions for "On the Wings of Time", a spectacular pageant presented by the Svithiod Lodges and staged in Medinah Temple, Chicago, in 1935. All the Lodges contributed and there were over 700 in the cast. It was attended by 5,000 persons and hundreds were turned away. It was declared as the largest group to witness an indoor Swedish presentation in Chicago. The man responsible for the gigantic venture was Carl Stockenberg who in our Centennial Pageant was played by Orjan Bergstrom.

As expected, the winner of the auditions was Margie Fleischman-Karl who proved that she deserved the honor by applying her beautiful voice to the singing of several beautiful songs.



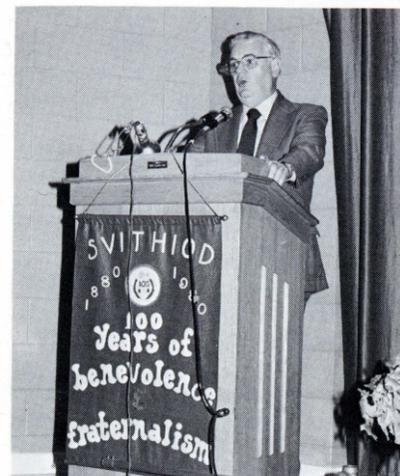
United States Marine Corps Reserve, 2nd Battalion, 24th Division, presented the colors in an impressive ceremony.

Adding a comic note to this scene was Bettie Fjortoft who played Lisa Lena in several of the production numbers.

Scene 4 added a serious reminder to the festivities as William Narkis read a poetic tribute to all Svithiod members that had served in our country's wars. Also featured in this scene were Uncle Sam (Gary Von Bergen), Columbia (Dianne Von Bergen) and Mother Svea (Florence Johnson) and, the Chicago Swedish Male Chorus who once again took to the stage to sing "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America" in the fine Grand Finale in which all the performers were given a standing ovation by an audience which was convinced that it was an afternoon well spent in the observance of our Order's Centennial.

It is not always remembered that what takes place on the spotlighted stage depends greatly on what goes on backstage. The members of the staging crew who worked unseen and unsung throughout the entire production, were Nils Hofverberg, K. Allan Anderson and Sandi Olson. And there was S. Erik Carlson who taped the entire proceedings. Also working in the background was makeup chief June Bolinder. Adopting the theory that a little-dab-will-do-you, she pretty-sized and hand-som-sized the entire cast. Sister June and Lucille Severson were also production co-ordinators and saw to it that all the units moved on and off the stage smoothly.

(Continued on next page)



Grand Master Harold G. Ekman extends the official greeting.



Edna Hofverberg, chairman of the Centennial Committee welcomes those present.

### Svithiod Pageant

(Continued from page 2)

We don't know whether or not they will be nominated for an Academy Award, but Thor H. Alvine deserves an "Oscar" for playing the part of Uncle Oscar and Richard W. Rosberg should certainly be honored for his role as the speaker in the dedication ceremony in the Old Peoples' Home scene.

Buelah and Ellsworth Rumpf, Eyrtha and Paul Carlson and Esther and Robert Wedberg were the directors of memorabilia. It was their responsibility to see that the stage props, costumes and other artifacts were in keeping with the various periods portrayed on the stage.



THE BANNER BEARERS — Ori Peterson is shown carrying the banner of John Ericsson Lodge No. 23, Rockford, Illinois. Many lodges participated in the procession.

Publicity for Svithiod's historic event was handled by Anna Lisa Holmberg, Kenneth P. Johnson and Harold Wennersten.

The attractive and informative 64-page souvenir program and ad book was the result of the experience and expertise of Lucille Severson and Eric Haggberg. Those responsible for the sale of the souvenir programs were Florence and Dave Swanson, Helen O. and Kenneth W. Johnson and Ellsworth Rumpf. Ruth Thullen sold admission tickets at the door of the auditorium.

The usherettes, who saw to it that those in the audience did not sit on each other's laps, were Sue Brostrom, Lilyan Erickson, Margot Hoglind, Ann Marie Johnston, Ulla Loch, Esther Wedberg and Elsa Youngberg. Dressed in their beautiful Scandinavian costumes, these seating sisters contributed considerable charm to the occasion.

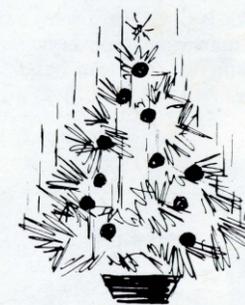
Others whose participation assured the success of the Pageant were Axel D. Anderson, Elsie Johnson, Ragnhild Kunzon, Mabel Olson, Chris Rosberg, Carl Rosen and Eric Youngberg from Manhem Lodge No. 2; Eric Bolinder, Eric Hed, Carlton E. Severson and Richard Young from Verdandi Lodge No. 3; Vice Grand Master Marie Larson, Jean Narkis, Robert Narkis and Carl Swanbom from Linden Park Lodge No. 15; George C. Anderson from Irving Park Lodge No. 20; Elsa and Ernest Oberg from Orion Lodge No. 64; Alice Anderson, Ann Marie Ascitutto and Mildred Wennersten from Astrid Lodge No. 65 and Astrid Egebrecht, Gail Egebrecht and Elna Ronnquist from John Morton Lodge No. 74.

Following are the names of the members who carried the lodge banners: Melvin H. Kunzon, Manhem No. 2;

Harold Wennersten, Verdandi No. 3; Terri Strorigl, Frithiof No. 5; Karen M. Swanbom, Linden Park No. 15; Henry Maule, Andree No. 19; Ruth V. Balthazor, Irving Park No. 20; Ori Peterson, John Ericsson No. 23; Elsa Johnson (Deputy from No. 34), Monitor No. 28; Melvin Anderson, Sten Sture No. 32; Nels Nelson, Engelbrekt No. 34; Charles Nordeen, Central No. 42; Past Grand Master E. Herbert Hanson, Unity No. 44; Paul Carlson, Elida-Englewood No. 54; Verona Peterson, Corona No. 55; Alice Nelson, Orion No. 64; Lisa Verzosa, Astrid No. 65 and Elna Ronnquist, John Morton No. 74.

All the members in Svithiod are grateful to all those who participated in the impressive observance of our Order's centennial.

It's too bad that none of us will be around to see how Svithiod will celebrate its bicentennial.



### NOTE

All photos of the Svithiod Centennial Pageant were taken by James Wennersten of Verdandi Lodge No. 3.

## The SVITHIOD Journal

(ISSN 0300-6212)

Official Publication of the  
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF SVITHIOD  
5518 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60630  
Telephone: Area Code 312-736-1191

Secretary-Treasurer of the Grand Lodge

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Editor

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Terms of subscription \$1.00 per year. Published monthly by the Independence Order of Svithiod, 5518 W. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60630. Printed by Monarch Printing Co., Chicago, Illinois. Second Class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

### COMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY

- 8—Verdandi No. 3: Kassorens afton hosted by Carl and Helga Streed.  
21—Astrid No. 65: Movie Night. Astrid Flashbacks with popcorn.  
22—Verdandi No. 3: Dalslands afton hosted by Eric and June Bolinder.  
27—Elida-Englewood No. 54: Birthday Night

### THE FARMER

Man builds his castles, fair and high  
Wherever river runneth by;  
Great cities rise in every land,  
Great churches show the builder's hand;  
Great arches, monuments, and towers,  
Fair palaces and pleasing bowers;  
Great work is done, be it here or there,  
And well man worketh everywhere,  
But work or rest, whate'er befall,  
The farmer he must feed them all.

—Charles G. Leland



### JOHN MORTON LODGE NO. 74

The wonderful Indian Summer weather has made the fall of this year so beautiful and pleasant.

At our November meeting we were especially privileged to have many of our good friends with us. It was guest officers' night and those who came and were our leaders for the evening were as follows: Chairman, Eyrtha Carlson (No. 54); Vice Chairman, K. Allan Anderson (No. 2); Past Chairman, Mabel Olson (No. 2); Secretary, Ingrid Johnson (No. 64); Financial Secretary, Ragnhild Kunzon (No. 2); Treasurer, Violet Anderson (No. 2); Chaplain, Buelah Rumpf (No. 2); Marshal, Paul Carlson (No. 54); Inner Guard, Evelyn Carlson (No. 2); Outer Guard, Melvin Kunzon (No. 2); Assistants to the Chairman were Axel Johnson (NO. 1) and Lillian Pedersen (No. 2); Assistants to the Vice Chairman were Siri Carlson (No. 65) and Oscar Carlson (No. 3). Assistant Marshals were Evelyn Svenonius (No. 65) and Ina Johnson (No. 1). Alice Rosberg (No. 2) was our pianist and Marie Larson (No. 15) was our deputy. All these fine people brought smiles and friendship and, of course, that Svithiod expertise in conducting a fine meeting. Thank you all so very much.

John Morton displayed our Centennial Banner and Gail Egebrecht was applauded for her efforts in creating this fine banner. We like it Gail. Thank you!

I think Svithiod is really living up to its goals when I read in the Journal that nine young people have received scholarships, thanks to efforts of the Fraternal Activities Committee and gifts from other sources.

There was a report from the Svithiod Day Outing Committee. We will receive some funds from the ads and ticket sales. The tickets you sell helps your lodge as well as the Grand Lodge in the work they must do for us all.

There was a guest present — Hattie Johnson from Elida-Englewood No. 54. It was so nice of you to come all the way from the southside.

We sang Happy Birthday to Allan Anderson, Gail Egebrecht and Saida Anderson.

On the raffle, the attendance prize went to Betty Jane Clausen. The membership prize was held over as no one was present to receive it.

The social hour was enjoyed with pumpkin pie, cake, coffee and apple cider. Thank you Sigrid and Saida.

By the time this is printed it is time to say Happy New Year to all. May it be a good year for all of us.

Don't forget your lodge dues which will be \$9.00 annually for all members.

Elna Ronnquist

### ORION LODGE NO. 64

Orion wishes everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with good health and much happiness.

We hope the following ill members will have a speedy recovery: Sigrid Johnson (eye surgery), Carl Peterson, Alice Kyllingstad and Olga Houghland.

Those with birthdays in November treated on refreshments which included a special cake in honor of Melvin Kunzon's 70th birthday.

Our recording secretary, Ingrid Johnson spent Thanksgiving in Arizona with her sisters and Christine Kobat spent hers with her daughter who was celebrating her birthday. P. G. Anderson spent his Thanksgiving in Montana.

Those with birthdays in December and January served at our Christmas dinner. They were Elfie Olson (California), Myrtle Schmitz, Sigrid Carlson, Betty Battista, Donald Peterson, Esther Nelson, Gerald Schubring and his daughter, Melissa, Walter Strandberg, P. G. Anderson, Dorothy Billingham, Kenneth Anderson and Carl Peterson. Thanks for your generosity and happy birthday to all. At the party we showed special movies for the children and had a one dollar grabbag.

We thank our members for their part in the Svithiod Day Outing. We received 55% for the sale of the tickets — \$156.05. We appreciate your help.

Centennial booklets, 1880-1980, containing the history of our Order and individual lodges, can be purchased from Esther Nelson by either writing or calling 453-5681. The price of this historic booklet is 50¢ and it has 64 pages of interesting activities over the past 100 years.

We thank Sister Esther for Orion's banner which she designed for display at the Centennial.

We enjoyed the complimentary remarks made by Past Grand Master Herbert J. Nelson and our deputy, Ronnie Kunzon concerning the contributions made to the Centennial and the open house — "Souvenirs of a 100 years" — by our members.

After refreshments we enjoyed Robbers Bunco and all the surprises.

Alice E. T. Nelson

Overheard in the coffee shop: "I wouldn't say that he is conceited, but he's absolutely convinced that if he hadn't been born, people would want to know why not."



Charlotte Campbell who wrote and narrated the Pageant.



The entire Pageant was taped for posterity by S. Erik Carlson.



Uncle Sam (Gary Von Bergen), Columbia (Dianne Von Bergen) and Mother Svea (Florence Johnson).



First Rowers, from left: Vice Grand Master Marie Larson, Secretary-Treasurer Harold Wennersten, Past Grand Master E. Herbert Hanson, Past Grand Master Herbert J. Nelson, Past Grand Master Richard W. Rosberg in disguise, Virginia Ekman and Grand Master Harold G. Ekman.



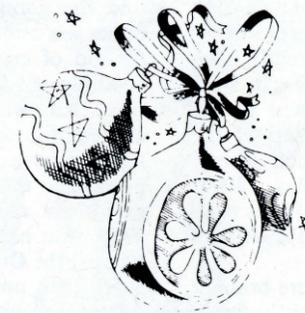
An early Svithiod Day Outing is staged without mosquitoes and ants. Bettie Fjortoft, wearing the baseball uniform, directed the Pageant.



With a song in their hearts, these Svithiod sisters sang the Lutfisk Oratorio and they were sharper than senap. The accordionist is Edna Hofverberg.



# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Svithiod Friends



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Alfredson  
Thor and Georgia Alvine  
Alice Anderson  
K. Allan and Violet Anderson  
Melvin Anderson Family  
Saida M. Anderson  
Alfred and Ann Marie Ascitutto  
Katie, Judy and Tom  
Astrid Lodge No. 65  
Baner Lodge No. 48  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Ingrid and Gunnar W. Bark  
Sten Bjorkling  
June and Eric Bolinder  
Carl and Paul  
Ivar and Eleanor Carlson  
Eyrtha and Paul Carlson

Erik and Evelyn Carlson  
Olga Carlson  
Siri and Oscar Carlson  
Rupert W. and Marian Christianson  
Rockford, Illinois  
Harry and Betty Jane Clausen  
Eleanor Driscoll  
Moline, Illinois  
Astrid Egebrecht  
Gail and Wayne  
Harold and Virginia Ekman  
Elida Englewood Lodge No. 54  
Gust and Eleanore Engstrom  
Entertainers Club of Irving Park  
Lodge No. 20  
Ellsworth W. Erickson  
Ingeborg and George Erickson

Lilyan Erickson  
Ann M. Frederickson  
Dorothy and LeRoy Fredrickson  
Linnea and Eric Greenberg  
Margaret and Eric Haggberg  
Holger and Esther Hakansson  
E. Herbert and Ann Hanson  
Harmony Lodge No. 49  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
Edna J. and Nils A. Hofverberg  
Ivar and Margot Hoglind  
Anna Lisa Holmberg  
Axel and Ina Johnson  
Ella S. Johnson  
Einar Johnson  
Kenneth P. and Inez Johnson

Ruth E. and Robert Johnson  
Gustave A. Krantz  
Wesley and Lois Krantz  
Melvin and Ragnhild Kunzon  
Kirsten Langlykke  
Marie Larson  
Sigrid Lindh  
Violet M. C. Moberg  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Albert and Cecelia Nelson  
Herb, Alice and Esther Nelson  
Lars Norman  
North Side Benevolent Society  
Ernest G. and Elsa Oberg  
Odin Lodge No. 10  
Joliet, Illinois  
Florence L. Olson

Mabel and Sandi Olson  
Lillian L. Pedersen  
Carl and Tansy Roman  
Carl Ronnberg  
Elna Ronnquist  
Carl E. and Astrid Rosen  
Chico, Calif.  
Floyd and Dorothy Ryberg  
Arvid J. Sallander  
Alice and Oliver Sandquist  
Eric Schuman  
Carlton and Lucille Severson  
Joseph I. Sholin  
Clara and Nick Spence  
Albert H. and Thora Stenstrom  
Panama City, Florida

Helga and Carl Streed  
Florence and David Swanson  
Helen C. and Harry O. Swanson  
Evelyn Svenonius  
Tegner Lodge No. 22  
Dagny and Einar Thornquist  
Ruth Thullen  
Vasa Lodge No. 17  
Verdandi Lodge No. 3  
Mary Jane and Bertil Walgren  
Gust and Eleanor Wallace  
Robert and Esther Wedberg  
Harold and Mildred Wennersten  
West Side Women's Club  
Oscar and Karin Wigwall  
Karlo F. Wollweber  
Anne and Harry Yocherer

Instead of sending Christmas cards to all their Svithiod sisters and brothers,  
the above members and lodges are using this means to convey their greetings.  
For this privilege they have made a donation to the Svithiod Scholarship Fund.



## SVITHIOD LODGE NO. 1

Our Centennial dinner at Villa Sweden went over in grand style due to a committee that had done its job well. A word of thanks to Lilyan Erickson for her tremendous effort in arranging for the dinner, getting the menu booklet printed and the souvenirs made. The souvenirs were letter openers in gold with handles in white and blue plastic with gold trim. The white part of the handle has the I.O.S. emblem and Svithiod Lodge No. 1, plus "100th Anniversary" inscribed on it. It was truly an impressive piece of art. Thank you, Lilyan for a job well done!

The liquid refreshments were brought by our Secretary of Trustees — Orjan Bergstrom — who got help with serving from Vice Chairman Gust Stoltz and Past Chairman Axel Johnson's son, Leonard Johnson. The music was supplied by accordionist Stanley Erickson who played both Swedish and American songs — even some classics.

What did we eat? Nothing but the best. Prime rib of beef with all the trimmings. Yours truly started things off with a greeting to everyone after which I turned the program over to Recording Secretary Carl Nelson who was the very able Master of Ceremonies the rest of the way. He called on our Grand Master Harold G. Ekman, who was there with his wife, Virginia. Grand Lodge Secretary Harold Wennersten, who was there with his wife, Mildred, and Vice Grand Master Marie Larson were also called upon. They all had something interesting to say. A brief outline of the past chairmen of Svithiod Lodge No. 1 was given by Past Chairman Axel Johnson who knew a great many of them personally. "Thank you" to everyone who helped make this centennial dinner a most enjoyable affair.

This article will be too late to be read this year so it should be written in the past tense, but as I am writing this, everything is still in the future.

At our November, 12th meeting we had received tickets for the big banquet, to be held at the Marriott O'Hare Hotel. They sold very well, although there were some members who could not go. We also received an invitation from Astrid Lodge No. 65 to serve as guest officers at their December 3rd meeting. Our serving seemed appropriate since Svithiod Lodge No. 1 was started on that date in 1880.

A committee to plan for the distribution of monetary gifts to needy members, charitable institutions and our own scholarship fund, met after the meeting and got it pretty well decided on the amounts to be donated in December.

We have two members on the sick list:

## UNITY LODGE NO. 44

If the saying, "The first hundred years are the hardest," has any modicum of truth in it, then the leaders of Svithiod, chosen after December 3rd, 1980, should find the going much easier and their duties less demanding. However, without the aid of crystal balls or advice of a soothsayer, I would venture the prediction that while the physical output needed may be lessened, Svithiod will have to seek out the very best brainpower and the most articulate and dedicated men and women to be its leaders. They must have the common interest of holding the Order together, able to instill confidence and a desire by others to follow their lead.

These are qualifications no less demanding than those placed upon the membership in the first century. They, by hard work, frugal and sound management have, in most instances, handed the present generation heritage and riches intended to be used for beneficial and charitable purposes for all Svithiod members. Our top priority is to strengthen and solidify our position and to manage the Order as well or better than our benefactors did.

Certainly the Centennial Committee assisted by the Fraternal Activities Committee by the presentation of the pageant at Mather High School on October 19th, put all their heart, soul and talent into its production. Headed by Edna Hofverberg and assisted by a small group of members from several of the Chicago area lodges, they deserve all the credit and our sincere "thank you" for a job well done in their effort to preserve the name and fame of Old Svithiod. This is not so easy in a vastly different environment than that which existed when Svithiod celebrated the 25th, 50th or even its heralded 55th anniversary. No, it's true, the hope the committee had of filling the auditorium was not completely fulfilled, but that's because those who were especially invited did not come to enjoy a fine show by amateur performers, to hear the singing of scene-stealing youngsters and the voices of a fine chorus.

Unity took part in the parade of banners at the pageant and with some of the preliminary arrangements. For those of

Ingrid Westberg and August Nilson. We wish them a speedy recovery. After the meeting there were refreshments and we all sang "Happy Anniversary" to Gust and Hedvig Stoltz who had been married 45 years. Many happy returns of the day! Greetings to all, near and far.

Earl Carlson

you who were not present and would like to have a commemorative booklet, which includes the history and pictures of all the lodges, you may receive one, for a small fee, by writing to your lodge officers or better yet, come to a lodge meeting if you live in the area.

Again, I would like to remind you that we meet at noon on the 3rd Friday of the month at Svithiod Hall, 5516 W. Lawrence Avenue.

Between Christmas and New Year you should receive a statement for your lodge dues and Grand Lodge assessment, a total of \$14.99, payable to Unity Lodge No. 44. This should be mailed to the financial secretary, E. Herbert Hanson at 5717 N. Maplewood Avenue, Chicago. Your usual excellent cooperation is appreciated. In 1981 we will bill parents or grandparents for the junior members. The fee is only \$3.00 per year.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Joel and Herb

## IRVING PARK LODGE NO. 20

The last hazy, lazy (?) days of Indian Summer (with shivery days in between) have blended into a delightful November. Of course, you may be enjoying different kinds of weather — in the different states in which our members reside — wonder if anyone has counted how many there are in all?

News from our Texas members is as follows: Eileen's illness lasted a month, Alma had a hospital stay for pneumonia, Ethel is working again for Dow Chemical at their huge Houston spread, while Ed fills in with extra hands wherever needed. Grandson Eric is more than a handful.

The November Card and Bunco party was well attended — 12 tables were surrounded and a good time was had by all. Our deputy and his wife, Ken and Sue, treated on delicious refreshments. Many thanks to them. Among the benefits of belonging to this organization are the on-going events to look forward to, and then enjoy.

Just now learned of the sudden passing of member, James Kozel. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Violet Fredrickson Kozel, and to his four children and six grandchildren. Lee and I are personally affected by this loss of a very special friend and relative. It is difficult to accept death as a part of life.

Dorothy

Classified ad in an Oregon newspaper: "Baby Sitting \$1.25 an hour if I mind the kid. If the kid minds me, \$1.00 per hour."



Margie Fleischman-Karl was the Pageant's featured soloist. She is also the director of the Forgat-Mig-Ej Swedish Children's Choir.



Here's the small-fry segment of the Forgat-Mig-Ej group. Their singing was as sweet as their expressions.



You just can't forget these two little ladies from the Forget-Me-Not Children's Club. They are Kristinia Lindgren (left) and Christen Skvarla.



In Scene IV, "Patriotic Spirit of Scandinavians", William F. Narkis read a poem in tribute to Svithiod members who had served in our country's wars. The poem was composed by Brother William. The young soldier is son, Robert Narkis.

**VERDANDI LODGE NO. 3**

Our chairman Carlton E. Severson met with an unfortunate accident last month. While working in his shop, his clothing was caught in the bit of a giant drill. Fortunately, the circuit shorted and the drill stopped so that his wife, Lucille, was able to cut the clothing and free her husband who was rushed to the hospital with lacerations and cuts on his body and face. We are happy to report that Brother Carlton got all patched and stitched up and, from the latest report, all is now well.

Wayne Moky, our marshal, does more than carry a spear around the lodge hall. Brother Wayne is a civil engineer who travels to all parts of the world. At our meeting in November, he brought us a documentary film which showed the waterways and dam construction in Pakistan, a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations in South Africa. The film was highly interesting and educational and it was enthusiastically appreciated by the 65 members present. Thank you, Wayne, for one of the most interesting programs of the year.

One of our older members, Walter A. Bogren, passed away on November 5 at the age of 92. Brother Bogren was born in Chicago on June 16, 1888 and became a member of Verdandi on November 23, 1916. We all extend our sympathies to the family.

We are sorry to report that Alma, the wife of Brother Ivar Blomdahl, passed away on November 14, 1980 at Pinellas Park, Florida where they lived. We share your grief, Brother Ivar.

Due to turkeys, pumpkin pies, cranberry dressings, etc., our regularly scheduled meeting for November 27 was not held.

Twenty-five years ago Past Chairman C. Hjalmar Lundquist gave a lecture to Verdandi members on the subject of "The Three Johns." The three mentioned at this educational meeting were John Hanson, John Morton and John Ericsson. Although not common knowledge, Brother Lundquist was of the opinion that the people should know that the Swedes had a place in the founding of our country.

John Morton (1724-1777) of Pennsylvania was a member of the Continental Congress and rose from his sick bed and cast the deciding vote in favor of independence from England. He was censured by his friends, but on his deathbed he dictated the following: "Tell them they shall live to see this hour when they shall acknowledge it to have been the most glorious service I ever rendered to my country."

Although not a signer of the Declaration as was Morton, John Hanson (1715-

**CORONA NO. 55 AND JOHN ERICSSON NO. 23**

My how swiftly time does fly! It seems as though it was only yesterday that I sent an article to the Journal. This is a busy time of year with the holidays coming upon us and with all the activities that go along with it. We should not have all the Christmas parties in December, but should spread them out throughout the year.

It takes a while to settle down to mundane and ordinary business after some of our Centennial celebrations. Rupert Christianson, Isabel Osborn, my spouse Ori and myself, attended the Centennial Pageant at Mather High School in Chicago on October 19th. We proudly displayed our beautiful banners representing our respective lodges. We owe a debt of gratitude to Bertha Magnuson for her artistic abilities. The Pageant was beautiful and inspiring, taking us back to the beginning of SVITHIOD. We enjoyed the Swedish Glee Club, the children singing and dancing, dressed in their traditional Scandinavian outfits, and those portraying their various parts. It was a well arranged program. The finale was very touching and inspiring. The children were on the stage, some with Swedish Flags, and others with American ones. There was an "Uncle Sam", and a "Miss Columbia" and all of those taking part in the program were on stage. The Glee Club sang "The Battle Hymn of The Republic" and concluded with "God Bless America." The program was well planned and very well done.

We enjoyed the day except for our trip home, always the unexpected. We had car problems. It all began when we were ready to leave Mather High School. The car would not move. We were fortunate to have some very kind people to help us to get the car going. We owe them a big "thank-you". We got as far as Elgin when it all began to happen. After a few hours, we did get a new battery, had the lights repaired, and were on our way.

Uno Nelson of John Ericsson is at Amberwood Nursing Home and Erick Haglund of Corona is at Park Strathmore Home. His wife, Alva, has also

1783) of Maryland was in 1781 elected as "President of the United States in Congress Assembled."

John Ericsson (1803-1889) was a famous engineer and the inventor of the Monitor used by the Union Forces in the Civil War. It was an ironclad warship with a low freeboard and one or more revolving turrets, each containing one or more large-caliber guns. So much for history. Now go and enjoy your lutfisk.

Harold Wennersten

been ill, but is recovering. My brother Arthur Person of Point Clear, Ala., has been hospitalized in Foley, Ala. He is recovering. I guess we must have others who are ill, but I don't have the information.

We regret to report the death of one of our old members. Annie Erlandson passed away Oct. 21st at age 92 after a short illness at Swedish American Hospital. She joined Corona in 1930 and is survived by one son and several grandchildren.

The two Rockford lodges are planning a children's Christmas party on December 28th. The Svithiod Club and Ladies Auxiliary will also share in this. It will be held at 3 P.M. There will be the usual gifts from Santa, refreshments and fun. There will also be treats for the Moms and Pops.

The Robert Adamses are on their usual boat trip. I guess you are supposed to call it a "Ship." I've been corrected on that.

We will be spending Christmas in New York with daughter Sharon and family. Sure hope we have nice weather.

From Svithiod in Rockford, we wish every one a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

"Second opinions are very popular these days. People think a second and then give you their opinion."

Verona Peterson

**FRITHIOF LODGE NO. 5**

We had a very nice meeting on November 20, in spite of all the mishaps. Our chairman Brother Wedberg had surgery on his arm November 18 and is recovering nicely. Sister Esther Wedberg locked her keys in her car, but a friendly neighbor came to her aid, and Sister Esther Anderson forgot it was meeting night. Otherwise, we had a very nice meeting.

Our Vice Chairman Jean White served as chairman and did a fine job. Brother George Johnson and myself have missed several meetings due to illness, and we're happy to be back. Sister Otilia Persson has been ill for sometime. We pray for her recovery.

We regret to report the passing of our member, Esther Carlson, on November 4. She lived in Foster City, Michigan. She was a former member of Svea Lodge No. 14 and was a member of Svithiod for more than 60 years. Peace to her memory.

Why not start the New Year right and come to our January meeting. See you then!

G/A

**ELIDA-ENGLEWOOD LODGE NO. 54**

We should well be into the new year, 1981, so we wish you all a happy and healthy year. We are also looking for a prosperous and successful term for our newly elected president and his cabinet for the next four years. Good Luck!

In our Lodge we also look for a good year. With our sisters sort of having charge of our Lodge, things are really running smoothly. Congratulations to them for the way they put on the smorgasbord supper affair held on November 9th. What a show. Plenty of good food and prizes for a raffle, door prizes and such.

The way these girls work! Not mentioning any individual names, they all deserve our thanks and so do some of our new members who pitch right in.

We do have some on the sick list. Helen Carlson is home after a long stay at the hospital for hip surgery, but is still not doing very well.

The second meeting in January, 1981, is birthday night and February 10th is our Valentine Party.

Big birthdays in February are Eleanor Clauson, 70, on the 11th and George Osterberg, also 70, on the 21st.

Please attend meetings if you can.

Jo-Ny

**STEN STURE LODGE NO. 32**

Guest Officers' Nite, held on November 21, was well attended. We express our grateful thanks to the following guests who served so well and willingly: Jean Narkis of Linden Park, chairman; Mabel Olson of Manhem, vice chairman; Vice Grand Master Marie Larson of Linden Park, treasurer; Ragnhild Kunzon of Manhem, financial secretary and Melvin Kunzon of Manhem, inner guard.

Following a well-run meeting by Jean Narkis, we heard good words from our own deputy, Ivar Hoglind. Vice Grand Master Marie Larson reported on the final arrangements being made for the centennial banquet.

Birthday greetings were sung to Chaplain Florence Anderson and also to our guest officer, Melvin Kunzon.

Chairman Melvin Anderson and all the members of Sten Sture wish all you sisters and brothers, far and near, a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. We also hope that you did enjoy a thankful Thanksgiving Day. Hopefully, 1981 will be a blessed year for all.

We have bingo scheduled for January. Let's try our luck and win a prize.

EM



When those in front of the stage were enjoying themselves, these stagehands were backstage slaving away. By pushing, lifting and pulling they made sure that everything was in the right place before the curtain went up. From left: K. Allan Anderson, Nils Hofverberg and Sandi Olson.



"Round the banner comrades gather, now in Svithiod's hall." So sang these officers at an early meeting of Svithiod Lodge No. 1. To make the scene as impressive as possible, several members of The Chicago Swedish Glee Club lent a helping hand — or should we say voice.



Axel D. Anderson lays the cornerstone of the Svithiod Old People's Home after Richard W. Rosberg (far right) completes his address at the dedication ceremonies. Robert Wedberg (far left) makes a photographic record of the historic event.

## ASTRID LODGE NO. 65

PLEASE NOTE: Our Financial Secretary, Ruth Thullen has moved back to Chicago. Her new address is: 3759 W. Eddy St., Chicago, Ill. 60618. MAKE THIS CORRECTION NOW.

I heard from Greta Burough in Itasca that they are leaving our area and resettling in Bonne Terre, MO. We are sorry to see them move away but wish them luck and happiness in their new home.

Ragnar Jerring called me from Lake Zurich to let us know that Anna was in Good Shepherd hospital in Barrington. She fell in the kitchen and sustained severe head injuries that required many stitches. She is home now and we all hope that her recovery will be fast and lasting. Florence Lagerstedt, just home from the hospital, fell at home and went right back to the hospital. She is now recuperating in a nursing home.

Dorothy Peterson wrote to let us know she is getting around with a walker due to her broken ankle. She said she and Les will be visiting Chicago next June.

Our champion dice throwers after the 2nd night of play are Siri Carlson, Alice Anderson and Anna-Lisa Holmberg. Best card players the first week were Alice Gasparini, Ruth Thullen and Mildred McCarter. Fickle Fate reversed the order in the 2nd game and then Mildred McCarter was head lady followed by Ruth Thullen and Joe Sholin.

Our Centennial year is rapidly drawing to a close — but it's been a great year. Each lodge has celebrated individually and then joined together in the Pageant at Mather High, the Open House at Svithiod Hall and the Dinner at the Marriott O'Hare which I hear had a tremendous turnout. We should all give a vote of thanks to the Centennial Committee who worked so hard to present all these events. Also, the Fraternal Activities Committee who joined in and did whatever they could to help. I can't thank them all by name but certainly Edna Hofverberg and Lucille Severson should be commended for their untiring efforts.

Jan. 21st, the only meeting in January is going to be Movie Night — complete with popcorn. We will all reminisce as we watch slides of years past — who knows, you too may appear on the silver screen. Feb. 4th we are going to create some Valentines that will be sent to our at-home sisters who are unable to get out to our affairs. Bring your scissors and ideas — the more the merrier.

A very Happy Birthday to Agnes Jacobson — a special year for her and also to Hildur Holmquist who celebrated number 93. My mother and I had out-of-town company this weekend. Her twin

Gus Soderblom 42  
1031 Oakview Dr. Wheaton Oaks  
Wheaton, Ill. 60187

## BRAGE LODGE NO. 29

To all members and friends of Svithiod, we at Brage send our warmest greetings and the wish for happy holidays that are upcoming.

Marilyn and Roy Setterlund became proud grandparents when Jean and Gary Setterlund became parents of a baby girl. Everyone concerned is recovering nicely and we offer our good wishes and congratulations.

This is not the happiest part of this article but a necessary one, and that is to report those on the sick list. Signe Gustafson was hospitalized for two weeks late in September, but has rejoined us at the meetings again. The new grandfather, Roy, was also hospitalized and is now back in our midst again. Stay well and stay with us. We found on our visit to Anna Baine that she had lost her brother-in-law from a heart attack early in October and our sympathies go to her. Willis, a close friend of hers at the home, was also called home to his maker, so Anna needs our prayers these days.

On September 28th, a bus load of lodge members from Brage headed to Rock Island to attend and help Frej Lodge celebrate its 80th anniversary and also to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Order. At O'Melia's Supper Club, where the festivities took place, we were honored by the presence of the Swedish Consul General, Arne Thoren and wife, Eva, from Chicago who stopped to convey their greetings to all present. They had attended some special occasion at Bloom's church earlier. The 30 or so Brage members reported that they had an excellent time and they enjoyed the good food and program. The outing was well worth the time and effort necessary to set it up.

Lois and Wes Krantz stopped, with a

brother and wife traveled from Minnesota to celebrate their combined birthday in advance. Turning 83 is pretty good, but for twins it's double fun.

Have you sent a buck for the sign moving? Did you go to a lodge doing this year? If not — it's not too late — do it now.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Anna-Lisa

group of friends on a return trip from South Bend, in Chicago to see the Svithiod Centennial Pageant at Mather High School.

Fiftieth anniversary parties seem to be in style this year. During the latter part of August, Betty and John Willets attended a gala affair at the Svithiod Singing Club in Chicago. The big event, a dinner party, honored our cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ahlman (members of John Morton No. 74) who were celebrating fifty happy years together. We found out that it was the last big event held at the club which is to be closed and that is sad news. The latter part of September we attended a lovely dinner party in Kewanee, Illinois, attended by 124 persons. It was in celebration of the 50th anniversary of my brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ringstrom. We, of Svithiod, extend our congratulations and best wishes to these two couples.

To all of you out there, our love and good wishes. "God bless you."

Lew and Flo Quimby

## MANHEM LODGE NO. 2

For our comparatively small crowd, we really had a successful card and games party on November 14th. Also because we had such generous donors of door prizes everyone went home with a prize. The total result netted a nice sum for us to use towards our Children's Christmas Party so we say thanks to all who came — we appreciated you very much!

And now for some other news. Once again our ever-helpful Buelah Rumpf gave us a scare as she was hospitalized the second time for her heart condition. After much observation and many tests, a pacemaker was put in, in fact it was done twice, with the result that she is now cleared for living normally but carefully. We're all happy for her and the help she has been given as we missed her from our midst and are glad to welcome her back again.

"Soon it will be Christmastime" and we wish all members and friends everywhere — HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

THE SCRIBBLER  
Lillian Pedersen