

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF SVITHIOD



CENTENNIAL
1880 --- 1980

1880 —  — 1980

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CENTENNIAL PAGEANT

Sunday, October 19, 1980

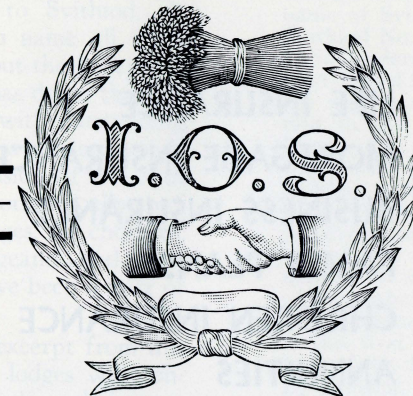
3:00 p. m.

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MATHER HIGH SCHOOL

5835 N. Lincoln Avenue

Chicago



1880 —

— 1980

CENTENNIAL BANQUET

Sunday, November 30, 1980

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MARRIOTT O'HARE HOTEL

Higgins at Cumberland

Chicago

Social Hour 2:30 p. m.

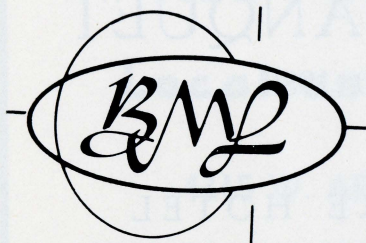
Dinner 3:30 p. m.



Congratulations from Bankers Mutual Life Insurance Company, Freeport, Illinois, on the 100th Anniversary of the Independent Order of Svithiod.

As the reinsurer of all Svithiod policies, we would like to continue to give you good service. All forms of life insurance and annuities are available.

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BANKERS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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UNDER SVITHIOD'S BANNER

OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS there have been many outstanding members who have devoted time and effort far and beyond the call of duty towards the promotion and expansion of the Svithiod Order. To name just a few — John Sandgren, Secretary of the Order for many years; Otto Hanson, also Grand Lodge Secretary for a long period and during whose tenure the modern insurance plan called "legal reserve" was adopted. Bernard Johnson, who served for many years as Grand Master and promoted many of the outstanding events which brought honor to Svithiod. It would be impossible to name all those who should be named but the Independent Order of Svithiod has down through the years been blessed with outstanding leaders. Br. Sandgren wrote an article in Swedish on the occasion of the 50th anniversary which chronologically records the accession of lodges, the choruses, bands, drill teams, pageants and civic participations which have been a part of Svithiod.

Following is a short excerpt from this article. The individual lodges will continue the saga by recording their own histories in this souvenir program book.

In talking with some of Svithiod's older members, they spoke of "Svithiod's Principles" but there is no record of what these actually were. It was with a feeling of warm love towards the Swedish language, Swedish conduct, Swedish fraternal feelings that gave the initiative to Swedish fraternal organizations in America. One longed for more stable association with men of the same heritage with whom one could work and when necessary be of help to one another. Such activity in Chicago had its origin around the 1870's, when the Swedish population became significant. Church associations had won quite big connections but there were many who had wider interests and wished connections outside the tight circle of the

church. Many Swedes had joined American organizations but there were others who preferred to further Swedish and Scandinavian fraternal organizational work. One such organization had its beginning on Chicago's southside around 22nd and Wabash and used the name "Svitjod" as early as 1875 and there are reports of a Spring festival by this group in May of that year. This was evidently the forerunner of Svithiod as we know it although there was actually no mention by the first members of an Independent Order of Svithiod. The fact is that some of them belonged to that first organization and when Svithiod on the northside of Chicago came into existence, it took the name of Svithiod No. 2. However, this Svithiod No. 2 soon ceased, and one of their leaders, F. A. Lindstrand, who later joined Svithiod No. 1, turned over the regalia of the southside organization to the newly organized Svithiod No. 1.

The one who took the first step in building a lodge on the northside was Simon Hallberg. He was very interested in developing a Swedish fellowship and spared no effort in promoting this dream. He called a meeting on the 3rd of December, 1880, at Bowman's Hall, at 109 Chicago Ave., Chicago. Present at this first meeting were Simon Hallberg, John Lundin, Gust Williams, H. D. Nelson, Andrew Peterson, Pete Johnson and Andrew Berg. Some records show others present but there is nothing to substantiate this.

No definite records of this first meeting are available, but if those men could have foreseen that the organization they founded would last, they probably would have seen to it that the records were safeguarded and preserved. On March 14, 1881, a committee was appointed to work out by-laws for the new lodge which were later adopted. In May of that year, Simon Hallberg was officially elected as the lodge chairman. A charter from the State of Illinois was received September 2, 1881, and from that date the organization had the legal right to its existence under the name of Independent Order of Svithiod. Sick benefit and funeral benefit consisting of \$1.00 per member were recorded in the original



by-laws. In the very beginning, benevolence was one of the watchwords of the Order. Over the years, many changes have taken place in the by-laws, but the main idea of benevolence has always been fostered. It is interesting to note that in the year 1885 it cost \$10.00 just to join the Order and this with a formal initiation ceremony. Drill corps and uniform ranks were formed during the early days and were a very important part of the ceremonial work.

In 1891, through the efforts of Axel Blomfeldt, as the Svithiod representative, Svithiod took part in supporting the raising of a monument in Lincoln Park, dedicated to the flower king, Carl von Linné. Participation in Swedish Day parade at the 1891 World's Fair also brought honor to Svithiod.

Through the years other lodges were instituted — Manhem No. 2, Verdandi No. 3, Mimer No. 4, Frithiof No. 5, Gylfe No. 6 — and it became more and more evident that a more modern method of operation be adopted and that a Grand Lodge was needed. A committee of three from each lodge was charged with the writing of the Order's Constitution and within three months were ready to initiate or dedicate a Grand Lodge, which took place on June

25, 1893. Axel Blomfeldt from Verdandi No. 3 was elected the Order's first Grand Master, Gust Ohman from Manhem No. 2 the Vice Grand Master, Bernard Peterson from Svithiod No. 1 Secretary and John Peterson of Verdandi No. 3 treasurer. Five members were elected as an executive committee. The purpose of the Order were set forth as:

- A union of Swedish men of good health and good character.
- Be an influence in improving their moral as well as material welfare.
- Help those members in time of need.
- At the demise of a member, pay an amount of death benefit, fixed by the Grand Lodge.

Br. Sandgren's article is rich in anecdotes and detailed history and pays tribute to these founding fathers of the Independent Order of Svithiod. As we stand on the threshold of a new Century, let us continue their work with renewed vigor, vitality and enthusiasm.

Edna J. Hofverberg, Chairman,
Centennial Committee 1980

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

Independent Order of Svithiod

on its

100th Anniversary

from members of the

MINNETONKA CLUB

A club organized in March, 1926, by Tekla Sandgren (wife of the late Grand Lodge Secretary John A. Sandgren) for the needs and comfort of the Old People's Home and its residents at Lake Minnetonka, Excelsior, Minnesota.



Best Wishes

from the Officers of the Grand Lodge



EDNA HOFVERBERG
(Manhem No. 2)
Board Member (1977-81)



HAROLD G. EKMAN, Grand Master
MARIE LARSON, Vice Grand Master
HAROLD WENNERSTEN, Secretary-Treasurer



VIOLET C. MOBERG
(City of Lakes No. 38)
Board Member (1977-81)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS (1979-83) — L. to r.: LUCILLE SEVERSON (Astrid No. 65); IVAR HOGGLIND (Irving Park No. 20); MARIE LARSON, Vice Grand Master, (Linden Park No. 15); ROBERT WEDBERG (Frithiof No. 5); JUNE BOLINDER (Astrid No. 65); K. ALLAN ANDERSON (Manhem No. 2); EYRTHA CARLSON (Elida-Englewood No. 54).

SVITHIOD LODGE No. 1 — from 1880 thru 1980

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF SVITHIOD was founded at Bowman's Hall, 109 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on December 3, 1880, by eight young men: namely, Simon Hallberg, John Lundin, Gust Williams, H. D. Nelson, Pete Johnson, Charles Lundstrom, J. P. Johnson and Ludwig Johnson. To this group quite a few members were added in a short time and the membership grew rapidly.

On September 3rd, 1881, they obtained their first charter under the name of Independent Order of Svithiod.

Only in its second year the young organization was bereaved by the death of their leader and first chairman, Simon Hallberg, but his co-workers continued his work with even more determination and that self-sacrificing zeal, that so well served to identify our pioneers.

Svithiod made progress and soon attained high rank among the Swedish-American organizations of that time.

Ten years have passed and we find that by 1890 our membership had enlarged considerably and a treasury amounting to over \$7,000. Expansion was suggested, so in October of 1890, a large number of our members withdrew from our lodge to organize lodges number 2 and 3. One year later lodge number 4 was organized and in 1892 lodge number 5 came into being.

July 1st, 1893, the then five lodges founded the Order's Grand Lodge, at which time our lodge received its Charter and derived its name, *Svithiod Lodge No. 1*.

The number of lodges were rapidly increasing and our lodge, which gave leave to many of its members to start

new lodges, also contributed financial aid very liberally during the lodges' first years. The financial aid extended to new lodges reacted like the proverbial bread cast upon the waters, and Svithiod Lodge No. 1 went steadily forward and for 43 years was the Order's largest lodge that proudly assumed the responsibility of leadership.

Well known for its many stately public festivals and looked forward to by the public, gave the lodge a reputation of high standing, and at the same time enriched the treasury, making it possible to perform charitable work for both members and outsiders who were in need.

Considerable contributions have been made to the Old Peoples' Home in Evanston, Illinois, and the former Minnetonka Old Members' Home.

Svithiod Lodge No. 1 has gone through many changes during the past 100 years. The fundamental purpose of the Svithiod Order was to unite men of Swedish birth or descent in a fraternal organization for mutual benefit and enjoyment. The use of the Swedish language was discontinued at the lodge meetings in March of 1946. A needed change in the bylaws opened the lodge hall doors to women in the year 1951. Since then many fraternal benefits were heaped on the lodge because of the ladies. In February 1975 Skandia Lodge No. 27 merged with Svithiod Lodge No. 1. Again the benefits were piled high as the new members, who were steeped in the traditions of the Order, took their places to give needed vitality to our lodge. Of the 63 Past Chairmen who served the lodge, there are still five surviving to contribute from their storehouse of experience.

Congratulations and Best Wishes from the Officers and Members of Svithiod Lodge No. 1, on Our 100th Anniversary!

MANHEM LODGE No. 2

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



CHARTERED in October of 1890, we began as an all Swedish speaking lodge. However, in 1915 the change-over was made to the English language and in 1932 ladies were admitted to membership.

Over the years other lodges have joined with us and in 1952 Mimer No. 4 merged, following in 1958 by Svea Daughters No. 57 and in 1959 by Alpha No. 50. These mergers have kept up the lodge strength so that at the present time we are nearly 200 members.

We have the distinction of having furnished four Grand Masters for the Order, these being Olof Pearson, serving in 1897, 1899, 1902, 1903, 1904; C. A. Carlson in 1908, with Holger J. Rosberg serving in 1948 and his son, Richard W. Rosberg, in 1958 and 1959.

Many activities have taken place during these years, a great many of which happened quite a long time ago. Let's test your memories and ask, do you remember — The Cosma Follies, with lodges Central, Orion, Svea, Manhem and Alpha taking part; The Uniform Rank, drill team; Fraternity Temple; The Drama Club; The Manhem Drum and Bugle Corps; Cabaret-Café Night with

the famous Pillow Case Dance put on by our ladies.

The founding fathers and those who came after, always encouraged our young members to take part in the lodge work and this the young members most certainly did. Our youngest chairman, Wesley Rosberg, served when he was only 19 years old. Later in the year 1944 his wife, Lorraine, completed the term of our first lady chairman, Harriet Moeller Preinitz, when she resigned after fifteen months in office. Then, during the war years, when our boys were away in service, the ladies of the lodge took over and served gallantly until the boys came back. However, the boys didn't completely take over when they did come back and the ladies have continued to serve most efficiently where needed.

Recently we have put on some excellent entertainments to which we have invited other lodges to come and enjoy such as our Show Boat Night, Clown Night and our latest, the topmost woman yodeler in the United States, Heidi Seiwert.

Yes, we are still No. 2, but in the words of a famous auto rental agency, "We try harder!" So we are still going



strong. Congratulations to the Independent Order of Svithiod for 100 years of fraternalism and benevolence.

Ellsworth Rumpf, Past Chairman
Edna J. Hofverberg, Chairman
Mabel Olson, Vice Chairman
Lillian Pedersen, Recording Secretary
Ragnhild Kunzon, Financial Secretary
Violet Anderson, Treasurer

Buelah Rumpf, Chaplain
Lillian Anderson, Marshal
Richard W. Rosberg, Chairm's Rt. Ass't
K. Allan Anderson, Chairm's Lt. Ass't
Lorraine Lee, Vice Chairm's Rt. Ass't
Elsa Younggren, V. Chairm's Lt. Ass't
Florence Johnson, Rt. Ass't Marshal
Elsie Johnson, Lt. Ass't Marshal
Evelyn Carlson, Inner Guard
Melvin Kunzon, Outer Guard
Alice Rosberg, Pianist

Mini History of VERDANDI LODGE No. 3

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



VERDANDI No. 3 — Seated, 1. to r.: Eric Haggberg, Recording Secretary; Oliver Sandquist, Past Chairman; Carlton Severson, Chairman; Holger Hakansson, Financial Secretary; Carl Streed, Treasurer; standing, first row: Lars Norman, E. Herbert Hanson (Deputy), George Erickson, Richard Muhr, Gust Engstrom, Kenneth W. Johnson, Harold Wennersten; second row: Karl Sternberg, Wayne Moky, Oscar Carlson, Kenneth Nye, Claus Asplund, Einar Johnson, Einar Thornquist. (Absent: David Swanson, Vice Chairman.)

VERDANDI, THE THIRD CHILD of Mother Svithiod, was born on August 13, 1890, in a two-story frame house located at what is now 1925 Dayton Street, Chicago. The proud parents — all men who had transferred from Svithiod Lodge No. 1 — celebrated the blessed event by passing out cigars and planning for their new lodge's official recognition which was granted on October 26, 1890. Twenty-six candidates were admitted to

membership when the lodge was instituted by John Wolgren from Svithiod Lodge No. 1.

Apparently Verdandi was named after one of the three norms of Nordic mythology, but it is possible that perhaps it was named after the Verdandi Society, a liberal-radical organization founded in 1882 by a group of students from the University of Uppsala who were interested in suffrage, religious freedom,



temperance, union politics and many other social issues.

The members of Svithiod Lodge No. 1 who were instrumental in the formation of Verdandi were Axel Blomfeldt, John Peterson, Charles Ostrand, M. C. Roselund and Oscar Stuberg.

In Verdandi's history there has often been the repetition of the same story — a willingness to serve the cause and no thought of personal consideration. Let us outline a few of the more significant events that took place.

Verdandi Hall which served as home for so many years was constructed in 1910, at a cost of \$23,220.06. The land, 56.9 x 384 feet, was purchased for a price of \$3,500. The architect was Andrew Sandegren and the building contractor Alfred Nelson. The building was dedicated by opening festivities and a bazaar, held October 27 - 30 and November 5, 1910.

From its early beginning, Verdandi had an initiating staff which performed the ceremony according to the old ritual. The old ceremony was an elaborate affair with costumes and paraphernalia galore. It was also rather lengthy and one by one the members of the staff dropped out. In 1924, Verdandi decided to organize another initiating staff. At the regular meeting of Verdandi lodge on October 2, 1924, the staff made its first appearance and won well deserved acclamation. Eric Hallen was the captain of the staff which performed the ceremony in the Swedish language only. Later in 1929 Brother Hallen organized an English speaking staff.

The Verdandi Athletic Club was organized in 1930 by the younger members of the lodge. Classes were held in indoor baseball, basketball and bowling. The formation of Verdandi's Bowling League in 1939 was due primarily to the enthusiastic leadership of Roland Beckman and Holger Hakansson. The league

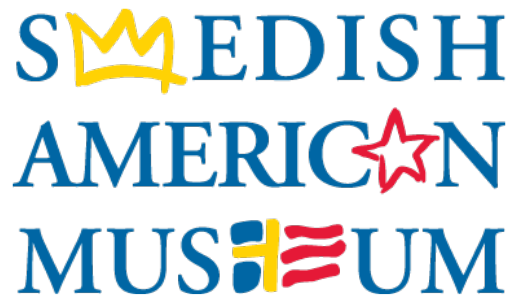
was comprised of 12 five-men teams and contained many outstanding bowlers.

Baseball came to Verdandi in the spring of 1950 when a softball team entered the Winnemac Park League. The uniforms were blue, set off by gold stripes and bearing the initial "V" on the shirts and caps. Brother Richard Johnson, a former minor league player, was the manager.

For many years, beginning in 1925, the third Saturday in November was set aside for the lodge's popular "Family Dinner," a charitable event that raised money for the sick and needy. The wives of the members did the cooking. In connection with the dinners, dances and turkey raffles were held, proceeds going to lodge members who had been ill for some time. Each year, on the Sunday before Christmas, the officers of the lodge drove around and distributed the money to the needy.

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

In times of war, Verdandi brothers have always answered their country's call. During World War I 34 members served and in World War II 52 members were represented on all fronts. Fortunately, the casualty list was small and, with the exception of a few brothers, all returned to civilian life whole and sound. During World War II several Verdandi members started a Victory Garden in the backyard of Verdandi's building. It was a beauty and drew forth praises from everyone who saw it. When the war ended, interest died — and so did the plants. It was no time at all before Verdandi's men-of-the soil were winning



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