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## Notices from Såningsmannen 1930

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# Some notices in a Swedish weekly magazine from 1930

TRANSLATED BY ELISABETH THORSELL AND CHRIS OLSSON

Around 1905 Johan Lindström Saxon of Örebro (1859–1935) started the weekly magazine *Såningsmannen*. His intention was that the magazine should be an educational, popular magazine for the “common man,” as well as less costly than other magazines. But it was also to reflect his own opinions on various matters. For instance, he hated coffee and tobacco, and was all for temperance. He also thought that life in the countryside was much better and healthier than living in the cities.

During his lifetime 70,000 issues were printed every week. The magazine also had readers in America. In 1987 the magazine merged with another, *Hemmets Veckotidning*, which still exists.

SAG reader *Mats Lundell* of Bromma, Sweden, has sent in a couple of notices from the run of 1930 that have to do with America.

## Harvest of Death



J. H. Johnson.

On 24 October 1930 the gardener John Hilding Johnson was killed in a car accident, age 46. He was born in Oppmanna parish (Krist.). Ten years earlier on 9 November 1920 he came to America and Duluth. Continuing in his profession from Sweden he made a name for himself in America as skillful gardener, and was much liked. He was always willing to help and give information about



his craft. He was fond of flowers and loved nature as a whole.

He was a member of the Minnesota Gardening Society, the Swedish-American National Federation, and Cosmopolitan Vasa. From 1906 he was a member of the Order of Good Templars. He was enthusiastic about the temperance movement and other idealistic interests. *Såningsmannen* was to him a dear friend and was always found in his home as well as in America.

J. H. Johnson leaves many friends in America, family, a sorrowing wife, and family and friends in Sweden.

(1930/51)

[**Ed:s note:** Who was this man? Some research showed him as being born in Oppmanna (Krist.) on 21 Aug. 1884, son of the sharecropper Jöns Nilsson and his wife Anna Persdotter in Killeboda village. His mother died in 1896, but John stayed with his father until his marriage to Anna Carolina Ehnstrand, born 13 Oct. 1887 in Södra Sandsjö (Kron.). They were married in a civil ceremony on 23 Dec. 1912 by the magistrate of Kristianstad. John is then recorded as stoneworker. The newlyweds lived for a short period at Arkelstorp in Oppmanna, but in 1913 moved to Vegeholm in Strövelstorp parish (Krist.) where John is listed as a garden worker and later as a garden foreman. In 1919 they moved to Rödbo parish (Göt.), where John was listed as a garden foreman at Ellesbo Norrgård.

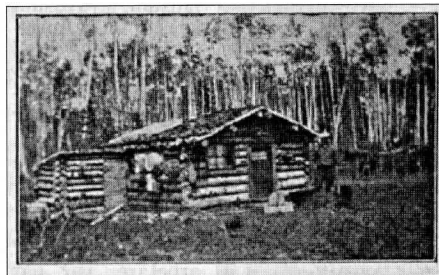
[On 8 Oct. 1920 John got his moving-out paper to go to North America, and he

left from Göteborg on Oct. 28 1920 on the *S/S Drottningholm*, which arrived in New York on 8 Nov. 1920. His destination was Duluth, MN.

[His wife Anna Carolina moved 9 Nov. 1920 to Kristianstad. On 27 Sep. 1922 she left from Göteborg to join her husband in Duluth.

[After John's death she moved back to Kristianstad on 18 Nov. 1934, but died on 8 Dec. 1934. The couple had no children.]

## Life of Swedish settlers in Canada



It is not a cow barn or a summer cow shed that the reader can see on this picture. It is instead a Swedish settler's home in Canada, more close by the Peace River in Alberta.

The picture was taken this year in June, more than 300 miles north of Edmonton. These are the kind of buildings that the settler or “homesteader,” as we say, customarily puts up for himself and his family during the first years in this remote area. It is common that immigrants that do not have a large amount of money, but perhaps some knowledge of farming, get what we call free land, 160 acres of crown land, which they can have for 10 dollars, with the obligation to break land and build.

And I want to say that such settler's homes do not look too bad in this fertile area. (Peace River is especially fertile.) The roofs are usually covered by turf and filled with grass and flowers. The cottages are often surrounded by huge flower borders. This is the case of settlers that have broken some land. Not until the grain and kitchen plants are planted can you work on flowers.

I must inform people that the so called "free homesteads" soon will not be possible to get, as the authorities have decided to no longer entice people by giving hope of free land. Land, still unbroken, will hereafter be sold by the authorities on the usual conditions.

*Rallare-Kalle  
(1930/44)*

## A Swedish-American invalid from the war.

Years ago a Swedish woman from the Ulricehamn area immigrated to America, a sister of the writer's maternal grandfather. Coming to the great republic, the Swedish girl married a man from Skåne, and in this marriage was born an only son, Ray Person.



For him it was not a lucky thing to be born in America, as during the war he was drafted into the U.S. army and sent to the battlefields of Europe. It got to be hot for these Americans, and in the platoon where Ray served, all but Ray were killed. He got a leg shot off and was injured in an arm. Among the bodies of a thousand dead comrades Ray crawled for no less than four days.

For certain, our countryman, as we may call him, had rich opportunities to ponder the horrors of war. Well, in the end the ambulance came and he was taken to a hospital where his leg was amputated. Maimed and crippled he returned to the U.S.

Now Ray Person lives in Chicago, where he works in some office. Manual labor is impossible for him. His mother still lives, and her grief is great when she has to see her only son, who had such good hope for his future, as an invalid at a young age.

He keeps in contact with his relatives in Sweden by letter.

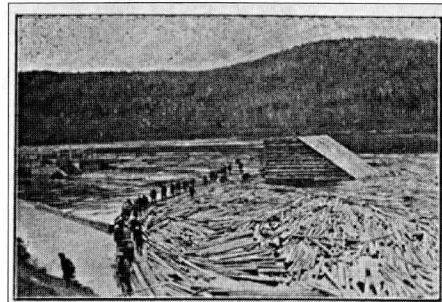
*G. G-n.  
(1930/15)*

## Swedish lumbermen in Canada

In the large forests of Ontario and British Columbia, and in their sawmills and their floating runs, and hunting grounds, I have met Swedes in large numbers. The *norrلänning* (man from northern Sweden) is without any doubt the most able of the lumbermen of Canada, and this comes from his tenacity and staying power.

The most prominent forestry man that I have met in Canada is a *norrلänning*, the Swedish vice consul in Prince Rupert, Olof Hanson. None of our countrymen there has impressed me more than he has.

He immigrated as a poor boy of 20 from Härjedalen and settled on a homestead, but later became a lumber cutter. His first success came when the railways started to be built through the wastelands and high mountains of British Columbia. Young Hanson started to provide



*Scandinavian workers at a timber sorting yard.*

railroad ties and poles to the railroad, and he became very well-liked. Today he is the owner of wide forests, and a big provider of all kinds of lumber, and can by all rights be called "West Canada's lumber king." He has no less than 2,000 employees, and among them the majority are his countrymen. He also has big interests in the huge fishing companies of Prince Rupert and is himself the CEO for a few of them. As the consul for Sweden, he has done much for the Swedes in the area, and his popularity will probably lead him to become a member of the parliament in Ottawa at the next election as the first Swede.

The Swedes will probably make great contributions in many ways to the future history of Canada. Much points to that. They are now getting close to 200,000 individuals.

*L. Persson  
(1930/47)*

## Addendum to the above article from "Swedes in Canada" by Elinor Barr (2015).

P. 156 When Canada's third transcontinental railway, the Grand Trunk Pacific, moved westward from Edmonton, "Olof 'Tie' Hanson walked 1,287 kilometers along the proposed route to survey the timber and won large contracts eastward from Prince Rupert, the Pacific terminus. By the time the railway was completed in 1914, Hanson was well established in the logging industry."

P. 416 Olof Hanson was born in Tännäs (Härj.) on 3 June 1882, and left his home in 1902 for *Norra Amerika*. After a few years in Spokane, WA, he moved to Canada in 1905, where he became very successful. He was elected as a liberal member of the Canadian House of Commons in 1930, 1935, and 1940. He died in 1952.

