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The Last Page

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The Last Page

Dear friends,

Thank you very much for your encouraging e-mails, which makes life good for a new editor. So keep them coming with new ideas for articles and suggestions for other things that could be discussed in SAG.

Should we open a discussion on the topic of *egg-coffee*? This kind of coffee is virtually unknown in Sweden, but I have had any number of questions about it in various parts of the U.S. So tell me your stories about it, and we will see how common it was, and maybe still is?

Recently I was allowed to see the list of SAG subscribers, and could see that there must be great possibilities to increase the number of subscribers in states like Connecticut (18), District of Columbia (4), Delaware (2 [Hi, Elsa and Bill!]), Indiana (12), Rhode Island (2), New Hampshire (4), Maine (8), Vermont (3), Pennsylvania (18), North Dakota (2), Montana (2), Nebraska (16), Utah (8), and several Southern states.

There are supposedly just as many Swedish descendants in the U.S. as we are here in "The Old Country," roughly 9 million, so I see a huge growth potential, but we need your help! Tell your friends about SAG, bring it to church coffee and show your fellow Swedes, etc.

Well, summer of 2004 is just a memory when you read this, and I hope it was a nice summer. Here in Sweden we had our usual mixture of rainy, cool days, and then suddenly a few weeks of almost tropical heat, and then back to cool and wet again.

In my family we have a little "stuga" in Värmland, in the parish of Nordmark in Eastern Värmland, where we like to go and enjoy being in the forest, sometimes looking for moose and beavers. The "stuga" has been in the family for generations and now the youngest grandson (2½) made his first conscious visit there, and declared that he wanted to stay, when the parents wanted to go home. That was a good sign that the place

will remain in the family in the future too.

In these days of constant change it is nice to have a retreat that mainly has stayed the same since my own childhood, and which can tell the youngsters about a past way of life (wooden stove, tiled oven, outdoor conveniences etc).

In the very near future is a trip for me to the U.S. First I will spend some days at The Swenson Center, to learn more about their resources, knowledge I will be sharing with you. Then I am going on to Salt Lake City and the SAG Workshop Week, one of the high points of the year. Perhaps one of the participants can be persuaded to share his/her experiences there. And lastly, a visit with relatives in Central California, where we will store sun and energy for the coming not-so-fun weather in the late fall in Sweden.

All the best!

Elisabeth Thorsell

Swenson Center does NOT have Swedish microfilm or microfiche

The new book *Your Swedish Roots* states on page 144 that The Swenson Center has microfilm of the Swedish church records. This is not so.

Swenson Center does have some microfilm for a few parishes, but does not have records for the whole country. Instead, go to your closest LDS Family History Center and they can help you to find the films for Sundborn or Örby.

New chairperson in Karlstad

The new county governor, *Eva Eriksson*, was elected chairperson for *The Kinship Center* at Karlstad at their Annual General Meeting in April 2004. (*The Bridge* 02/2004)

The 2004 Olsson scholar is revealed

The 2004 Olsson scholar is now revealed. She is *Joanna Daxell*, a doctoral student in Comparative Canadian Literature at Université de Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada. She will be at The Swenson Center for the first 3-1/2 weeks in November 2004.

Her dissertation topic is "Swedish Literature in North America in Swedish and English and the Image of the Swedish Immigrant/Emigrant in North American and Swedish Literatures."

She plans to explore the differences found in American and Canadian immigrant writing based on the different history of Swedish immigration to the United States, which starts already in the 1840s, and to Canada, where the majority of Swedish immigrants arrived at a later date. She plans to use the Swenson

Center's extensive book collection, Swedish-American newspapers, and archival collections.

She has worked with Elinor Barr on the Swedes in Canada project as a researcher and translator [See SAG 2/04 p. 12].

Swedish Council of America seeks new partners

The *Swedish Council of America* visited Stockholm in March 2004 to discuss closer contacts with, for instance, the Swedish Local Historical Society Federation (*Sveriges Hembygdsförbund*) and Swedish museums and tourist organizations. A Swedish-American conference in 2006 in Sweden is in the planning stages. (*The Bridge* 02/2004)