

# Swedish Roots in Oregon

## An Immigration Research Project



June 2018 Newsletter

Editor: Rhonda Erlandson

Volume 37

## SRIO Announces Major Exhibit Coming In 2019



Rhonda Erlandson and Ross Fogelquist enjoying Midsummer at Fogelbo in 2013

Between 1850 and 1949, only Canada and Germany surpassed Sweden in Oregon's foreign born population. By 1930, one in ten immigrants in Oregon was a Swede. Who were these intrepid émigrés who not only crossed the Atlantic Ocean to arrive in America, but also traversed the North American continent to settle in Oregon? What can we learn from them? And what is the substance of their legacy today?

Swedish Roots in Oregon is pleased to announce **From Sweden to Oregon: the immigrant experience 1850-1950**, an exhibition which follows the Swedish immigrants to Oregon and reveals what became of their lives, hopes, and dreams. Complemented by a series of public events and programs, this moving exhibit is planned for the spring of 2019 at Nordia House.

Look within our Midsummer 2018 newsletter to learn more about this exciting project now underway!

[Swedishrootsinoregon.org](http://Swedishrootsinoregon.org)

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Rhonda Erlandson, President**

**Ross Fogelquist, Vice President**

**Eric Lindquist, Treasurer**

**Ann Stuller, Secretary & Genealogist**

**David Anderson, Genealogist**

**Mike Timshel, Member at Large**

SRIO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Your donation is tax deductible and supports research into the lives and history of Swedish immigrants in Oregon.



The influence of Swedish immigrants in the areas of farming, fishing, and logging is quite well known and will be featured in the exhibit. Perhaps less familiar are the Swedish contributions to Oregon's arts and literature, educational institutions, churches, hospitals, business, politics, and the building of the state's infrastructure. Examples of these critical contributions to Oregon's growth will highlight the exhibit.

The exhibit will also feature coverage of the lodges and benevolent societies, such as the Swedish Society of Linnea. These organizations provided support and a vital social network for the Swedish immigrants.

Further enhancing the exhibit will be a range of cultural events demonstrating the rich heritage the early Swedes bequeathed to future generations.



Alma Johanson reigns as the 1916 Midsommar Queen. Alma's daughter Lillian Johnson remains a member of Linnea today.



The original Linnea Hall was located at 2066 NW Irving Street in Portland. Although once a vibrant center for Swedes to meet and socialize, membership had declined significantly by 1946. In 1976 the building was sold and in 1980 it was named a Portland Historical Landmark. More of Linnea's history will be covered in the exhibit.

TILL EMBETSMÄN OCH MEDLEMMAR AF FÖRENINGEN

## SVENSKA SÄLLSKAPET LINNEA

Portland, Ore., den 7. Aug ..... 1900.....

Jag undertecknad anhåller om inträde som medlem af eder förening. Jag är född i Geckmünde församling i Westmörland län i Sverige, den 21. Mars ..... 1876. Ankom till Amerika den 11. Sept ..... 1902. Min närvarande adress är N:o S. G. L. B. 12 gatan. Yrke Läkare ..... Om jag blifver intagen i eder förening, underkastar jag mig edra lagar och bruk, om de ej strida mot mina religiösa och politiska åsikter.

Inträdesafgiften \$ 3 ..... jemte läkarebetyg (om så af föreningen påfordras) att jag är fri från alla smittosamma och kroniska sjukdomar, bifogas.

REKOMMENDERAD AF: P. Berglund ..... Högaktningsfullt L. C. Grimsen .....  
N. Holm ..... M. Rosenber PRO. SEK.





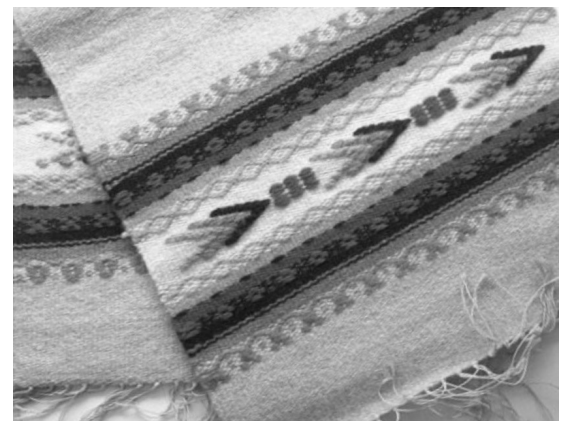
## A Growing Body of Sponsors

SRIO projects expenses for the exhibit will approach \$12,000. We are actively fundraising at this time. To date SRIO has received \$3,250 in grant funds from the Swedish Council of America to support the exhibit. In addition, generous donations have come from Harmoni Lodge of the Vasa Order (\$500), the Swedish Society of Linnea (\$2000), and the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society (\$500). We are so grateful for the sponsorship of these lodges and organizations. With their help we are half way to our fundraising goal! We welcome the support of other organizations and individuals throughout Oregon. See SRIO's contact info on page 5 of this newsletter.

SRIO's vision for the exhibit is that it will continue to be an instrument of education and enrichment long after its tenure at Nordia House comes to an end. In the future, SRIO plans to make it available to other venues throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Efternamn	Förnamn	Ålder	Församling	Län	Utvdrår	Destination
JOHANSSON	MATILDA LOVI	26	NORRKÖPING	E	1877	CHICAGO
JOHANSSON	MATILDA OLSS	63	ASARUM	K	1921	NEW YORK
						CHERRY WALBY
JOHANSON	Förnamn: MATILDA					ATCHISON
JOHANSON	Efternamn: JOHANSON					NEW YORK
JOHANSON	Ålder: 33	Kön: K				IRONWOOD
JOHANSON	Församling: GRYTNÄS	Län: W				BOSTON
JOHANSON	Titel/Änn: GÖTEBORG					NEW YORK
JOHANSON	Utvandradag: 1889 06 28					NEW YORK
JOHANSON	Destination: NEW YORK					NEW YORK
JOHANSON	Medåkande: NEJ					NEW YORK



## PHOTOGRAPHS

Do you have photographic images of Swedes who contributed to Oregon's history?

If so, SRIO would like to hear from you! We will scan these photos and select the most relevant for inclusion in the exhibit. After scanning, the original photographs will be returned to their owners.



## CATALOG

SRIO expects to collect more photos and artifacts than can actually fit into a single exhibit. Therefore, plans are underway to compile a commemorative book presenting all of the material gathered during this period of planning and preparation for the exhibit.

## ARTIFACTS

Do you have artifacts to loan for display? We are looking for things like household items, tools, crafts or other possessions brought from Sweden to Oregon or made by Swedish immigrants. We are also interested in ephemera such as letters, certificates, steam ship tickets. SRIO will return all artifacts to their owners at the conclusion of the exhibit.



**To share your Swedish immigrant ancestors' photographs and artifacts  
contact Rhonda Erlandson at  
president@swedishrootsinoregon.org  
or by phone at (503) 649-4123**

**To donate money to support the exhibit, you may do so online at  
[www.swedishrootsinoregon.org](http://www.swedishrootsinoregon.org)**

**Or mail check to  
Swedish Roots in Oregon  
ATTN: Rhonda Erlandson, President  
7410 SW Oleson Road, #221  
Portland OR 97223**

**Be sure to designate your contribution  
"For Exhibit"  
and remember that SRIO is a 501c3 nonprofit  
organization. Your gift is tax deductible.**



# ***Ja må han leva!***



## **SRIO salutes founding member Ross Fogelquist on his 80th birthday!**

Swedish Roots in Oregon was formed in 1999 when Ross Fogelquist of Oregon's New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society suggested that a project be initiated to research, document, and preserve the rich history of Oregon's Swedish immigrants. A number of planning meetings were held and it was decided that this group would operate independently and be composed of a small group of dedicated researchers. As SRIO enters its 20th year, members of the board give hearty thanks to Ross for all of his hard work and enthusiasm over the years.



**Ross and former SRIO board member  
Ingeborg Dean, both wearing authentic  
national costumes.**



**SRIO members from left: Ann Stuller, Secretary & Genealogist; Darrell Gulstrom, Guest; Mike Timshel, Translator & Member at Large; Eric Lindquist, Treasurer; David Anderson, Genealogist; Ross Fogelquist, Vice President.**



# NEWS FLASH FROM THE WEST

## A Glimpse of Midsummer in the '60's

by Ed Fossum

Portland-based reporter for  
Svenska Posten



*The following article was written in Swedish and submitted to Svenska Posten on July 8, 1964. Translated by Ingeborg Dean with permission of Fossum's granddaughter, Debbie Ludviksen.*

The celebration of Midsummer by the various Swedish organizations, as well as the Kiwanis Club regatta on the Willamette turned out to be a bit too much for Oaks Park to deal with. The park is large, still there was not enough parking. I got there early and found a spot right behind the stage. Moments afterwards I ran into a good friend who offered me a whole dollar if I would change places with him. He had left his car somewhere up in the Sellwood district and he, his wife and two small children had trudged for at least a mile to the park with a big heavy picnic basket and some packages. Still, they had made it to the celebrations, tired out like so many others. People came in large numbers, no doubt as many as for the Midsummer celebrations of earlier years.

This was not surprising, for Sunday, June 28, turned into a truly beautiful summer day, not too warm but just right. Perhaps it was a little downer for the soft drink stand that might have sold more on a really hot day, but the long bar still seemed to stay fully occupied. However, those who had hoped to be able to watch the hydroplane competition on the river were disappointed. The whole shore line was hidden behind a canvas fence. It cost one dollar to go through and the admission money will be used for a good cause: the Kiwanis camp for handicapped children up at Mt. Hood.

At one thirty the beautiful maypole decorated with flowers was raised by members of the Swedish Men's Chorus. This is something they have been taking care of and they have done it admirably. Herbert Litsjö was there with the remaining members of the children's club *Rosknoppen* (the Rosebud). Five of the club's members, plus a few others are touring Sweden.

*Fossum article, continued*

The program was similar to those of earlier years. Perhaps there are people who found it old and stale and wished for something new. But there are others who wonder what could be more appropriate for a Midsummer celebration than old and young joining hands and dancing around a newly raised, flower decked maypole with the children dressed in colorful national costumes. What could be more beautiful than listening to a male chorus singing old, glorious songs of spring and summer? This is what they did last Sunday under the baton of their new director, Oscar E. Carlson, who seems to have understood what was needed by the members of the chorus

Nobody felt that the welcoming address by the committee chairman, Richard Drill, was too drawn out, and the master of ceremonies, Frank Nelson, did his duty in a nice and brief manner. Frank had just returned from a trip by air to Sweden and said he was completely satisfied with the Midsummer celebration he had enjoyed back home.

The guest speaker this year was the local head of Svenska Posten in Portland, Mrs. Melanie Wide. Her Midsummer greetings began with a few sentences in Swedish. She then continued in English and said how proud she is, and how proud all assembled should be, to be able to call themselves Swedes—even if like her, they were born and raised in America. She reminded everybody about the planned "Sweden Week" that is planned for September here in Portland and asked for

help with the event. She then presented two young men from *Svenska Handelskammaren* (the Swedish Chamber of Commerce) and they both spoke briefly about the same event.

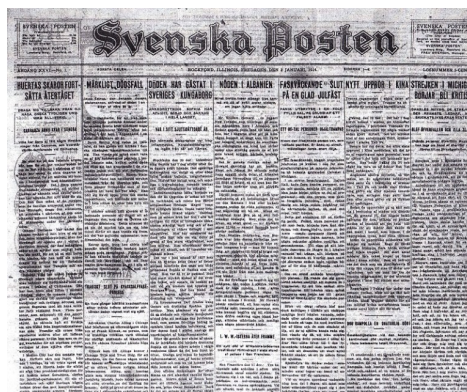
I feel that yet another flower for the lapel should go to Herbert Litsjö, president of Harmoni Lodge of the Vasa Order. He and other leaders have done wonders with the Vasa Youth Group here in Portland. Its members have learned many new dances which they performed at the Midsummer festivities. They are all due our appreciation and the loud applause they got.

An addition to the program was the presentation of Finland's Lucia of 1963, a young, sweet girl. She spoke briefly, first in Swedish and then in English and she did a very good job.

The food stand seemed to be very busy all day as were the family games stands, so the respective lodges should be able to count on a good distribution.

And now the time has come to say "so long for the time being." -Ed

*Ed Fossum wrote for Svenska Posten for many years in the 1960's. More of his work will be featured in SRIO's 2019 exhibit, From Sweden to Oregon.*





Proudly featured at the SRIO table

## **Original art by Tord Nygren**

A limited number of matted paintings will be  
on sale at

Nordia Northwest Midsummer Festival 2018

Tord Nygren is a well known Swedish illustrator who has a great number of books to his name. He has also done work for magazines and newspapers, and last year's Advent calendar published by the Church of Sweden was designed by him. He began illustrating books for children and teens in 1964 and in all his work has applied many different techniques. Since the 1980's his pictures have appeared regularly in the American Cricket Magazine's output.



**Artist Tord Nygren in his studio  
near Gnesta, Sweden**

Glad Midsommar!



Be sure to stop by  
our table and say hej!

We welcome your  
personal stories of  
Swedish ancestry.



On sale at SRIO's table this Midsummer are deeply discounted books published by Swedish Roots Press as well as used books written in Swedish.

