

Swedish Christmas

By BJORN TIERNSTROM
Exchange Student

Every country has its own special way to celebrate the Christmas, and the way we celebrate it in Sweden differs in many ways from your customs but they are getting closer as the Christmas is getting more commercialized, but I'll try to give you an idea about how it is celebrated in most Swedish homes.

The real sign of that Christmas is coming is the First Sunday in Advent, which also is the start of the Swedish liturgical year. This is the Sunday when all Swedish churches are filled to the last place, and in most homes you find an Advent candle lighting and in many windows you will see an Advent star. The first of December most Swedish children open the first window of their Advent Calendar, which contains 24 doors one for every day up to Christmas Eve. On the second Sunday the next Advent candle is lit, and this is usually the day when the stores are open to show all their new and interesting Christmas gifts.

On the 13th of December we have a custom which I don't think is celebrated anywhere else, and this is Lucia. The origin of it is very mysterious but it is celebrated to the memory of an Italian Saint, who was executed in the third century for her beliefs.

Nowadays it's celebrated by the daughter in the house. She gets up early in the morning, about 5 o'clock, dresses in a long white dress with a red belt, and wears a crown in her hair. Equipped with a tray containing a coffee pot, special Lucia bread and a candle she goes up to her parents and serves breakfast, while singing Swedish Christmas carols. If she has time she may take her sisters and brothers, also dressed in white, and go over to neighbors and serves them this early meal.

The 13th day is the 24th of December, Christmas Eve. You can find the Christmas tree in the living room beautifully decorated, and with lots of gifts under it that are called "Julklappar". The children are waiting all day long for "Jul Tomten", who will arrive in the evening dressed in red and with a big white beard, and carrying a sack full of Christmas gifts to all nice children.

It is a long day, and in the afternoon it is time for the big Christmas meal. It usually starts with a Smorgasbord, consisting of a great number of dishes and after this you start with the ham the "Lutfisk" which is dried split cod, soaked and boiled and eaten with a special white sauce.

Another traditional Christmas meal is "Doop i grytan". This is when we dip a special bread in the water in which the ham has been boiled. After several hours at the table, it is time to go to the evening service at Church, and after that you come home and wait for "Jul tomten" to appear.

After a while your father gets a very important message and he tells the family that he must leave for a moment. Some minutes later "Jul tomten" arrives, asks if the children have been nice, and leaves his sack with "Jul klappar" and he says that he has to move on because there are many children waiting for him.

Soon again your father appears and everybody tells him that he just missed, Jul tomten. Now your father starts to give out the gifts, and every parcel has a rhyme, and by reading this you must try to guess what you'll get. When gifts are handed out it's often time for bed, because many families go to church very early next morning, and this service is called Jul Otta.

Christmas celebrations go on for three days, and everybody gets as much as possible, which causes many hospital visits for over-eating, but anyone we just have Christmas once a year.

Youth Corps Recruitment Begins

Recruitment is underway by the Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity for eligible youths from low-income families for the county's first Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC).

In November, the Commission received a \$108,350 Federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct the work experience and counseling program for 50 out-of-school youths from 16-21 years.

NYC serves a two-fold purpose: (1) provides work experience for low-income families with valuable work experience and (2) provides an expansion of needed community services through the NYC enrollment in private, non-profit organizations around the county. They will not displace existing employees in the organizations.

Participating agencies are Pontiac State Hospital; Providence Hospital; Southfield; Oakland County Child Guidance Clinic; Family Service of Oakland County; Catholic Social Services of Oakland County; the Yarnall branch of the Detroit League for the Handicapped; and OCECO's two major Opportunity Centers in Pontiac and Royal Oak.

NYC director is Edward P. Davis, formerly assistant director of the North Oakland Opportunity Center, Pontiac.

NYC enrollees will work a maximum of 24 hours each week and will receive eight hours a week of counseling and vocational or basic education. They will receive the minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour. They will serve in NYC for an average of six months. Hopefully, they will return to high school, be hired full-time by the agency or be placed in training programs leading to better-paying jobs.

Any youth out of school at least six months and who meets the U.S. Department of Labor income criteria is eligible for enrollment.

The out-of-school program represents one-third of OCECO's total NYC proposal. The Commission is awaiting funding for in-school and summer programs.

Administered by OCECO, NYC is a Federal anti-poverty program funded through the U.S. Department of Labor by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Washington, D.C.

Youths interested in the program should contact the local major Opportunity Centers or the Michigan Employment Security Commission in Pontiac and Royal Oak.



ALAMEDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL received a green pennant award for their perfect safety record last week. Holding the newly presented flag are Mark Cousin-

eau, captain of the safety squad, and Gail Jackson, lieutenant. With them are the boys and girls who help to keep the Alameda record free of accidents.

Farmington's Men with the Colors

Palombi Gets Citation For Vietnam Service

The coveted and respected Combat Infantryman's Badge was awarded in Vietnam November 26 to Army Private First Class Ray E. Palombi, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Palombi, of 28110 Wildwood Trail, upon returning from Operation "Paul Revere IV".

Pvt. Palombi, a fire direction control chart operator in Battery C, 5th Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division's 16th Artillery, helped provide support for infantry units participating in search and destroy missions in the Central Highlands near Pleiku.

Combat Infantryman's Badges were first awarded during World War II. A star was added for those who served in line combat in Korea. In Vietnam, at least 30 days in contact against hostile forces is required in order to be eligible for the award.

Palombi entered on active duty in October 1965 and was stationed in Germany before his arrival in Vietnam.

Westfall Aboard Aircraft Carrier

Airman Daniel J. Westfall, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Westfall, of 20925 Ontario, is off the coast of North Vietnam aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga, patrolling in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Marking her third tour in Vietnamese waters, the "T" is serving as flagship for the Commander, Carrier Division Three.

Control of the sea is the number one job of the Navy, and the chief weapon for maintaining that control of the carrier strike force: hard-hitting, fast moving, far-ranging carriers.

Patrello Trains At Fort Knox

Private Frank D. Patrello, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Patrello, of 21040 Lakspur, completed reconnaissance training December 15 at the Army Armor Center, Ft. Knox, Ky.

He received eight weeks of training in the methods of scouting and patrolling, with emphasis on the operation of Army jeeps on rugged terrain.

Patrello was also given in camouflage techniques, concealment in natural terrain and handling of weapons.

Completes Navy Basic Training

Seaman Recruit Ronald J. Riggio, 20, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Riggio, of 31519 Marbledale, has been graduated after nine weeks of Navy basic training at the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Ill.

In the first weeks of his naval service he studied military subjects and lived and worked under conditions similar to those he will encounter on his first ship or at his first shore station.

In making the transition from civilian life to Naval service, he received instruction under veteran Navy petty officers. He studied seamanship, as well as survival techniques, military drill and other subjects.

Pacey Finishes 8-Week Course

Private Thomas E. Pacey, 19, son of Mrs. Leona R. Pacey, of 22601 Floral, completed an automotive course at the Army Armor School, Ft. Knox, Ky., December 9.

During the eight-week course, he was trained to maintain and repair fuel and electrical systems, engines, transmissions and chassis units of the Army's armored vehicles.

His classification as Specialist 5 was earned during November of this year. Ron was a 1961 graduate of Farmington High School and when he entered the service, he was employed by the Farmington Post Office.

A GIFT FOR YOURSELF!

Been Christmas shopping? Crowded, isn't it? And everybody looking for gifts for others. We say this is the way it ought to be. But would it be wrong to get a gift for YOURSELF? ... especially if year after year you have given many gifts to others, but have never received the true Christmas gift for yourself? To celebrate Christmas by giving gifts "in the spirit of Christmas" without having RECEIVED the first Christmas gift, is to make it a mockery.

Many know that the Christ of Christmas is THE Saviour, but they have never received Him as THEIR Saviour. The gift of God is Eternal Life in Jesus. As many as receive Him—have it. 1 John 5:12, "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." The only way to have Christ in Christmas is to have Him in your heart.

Candlelight-Carol Christmas Worship - Dec. 24 - 11 p.m.
125-Voice Choir Concert - Dec. 25 - 7 p.m.

SOUTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH
21122 Indian, Southfield
Bible School - 9:45 a.m. - Worship - 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
RAYMOND BAYNE, Pastor

C. L. McCABE
L. O. McCABE

"Fear Not...
... For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
Luke 8:10-11

18570 Grand River Ave.
VE 6-3752

McCABE
Funeral Home

Published by Consumers Power Company

Halsman Exhibit In Detroit

The first public exhibition of a collection of black and white pictures taken at Greenfield Village by world famous photographer, Philippe Halsman, is on display in the lobby of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association Building in downtown Detroit.

Visiting the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village last year, Halsman recorded on film the many activities and exhibits at the 260-acre historical complex. A group of these same photographs in color was used for a special 8-page feature in the July issue of Reader's Digest.

Halsman's photographs have

appeared on the cover of Life Magazine a record of 98 times. He has made two around the world tours for Time-Life on picture taking assignments. In 1963 he was one of three Americans selected in the "Twelve International Photographers" exhibit at the Huntington Hartford Museum of Modern Art. The special exhibition of Greenfield Village photographs will be open through the holiday season until mid-January, during the regular business hours at First Federal Savings and Loan—9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 6 p.m. Friday.

FARMINGTON WELCOMING SERVICE
WELCOMES YOU TO THIS AREA
If you are a newcomer please let us know.
Our Hostesses will make an appointment for a short visit in your home, bringing you civic information and certificates for gifts from local merchants.
Call now and an appointment will be made at your convenience.
GR. 4-8567 628-4559
Member Farmington Board of Commerce

Get Help for THE HOLIDAYS With A New GAS RANGE

What a glorious way to gift yourself! Modern new gas ranges are so easy to clean, you'll be freed from a lot of drudgery. At the same time, you'll enjoy cooking more. The new gas range is so wonderfully automatic, it makes creative cooking really carefree cooking. No need to hover over oven dishes—or "pot-watch" those on top. Naturally, a modern gas range is not only for the cook... it's a gift that will delight the whole family. Everyone will enjoy more time together—and good eating, too. Select your new gas range now, to help you with the Holidays.

The occasion was highlighted in the family room with the annual traditional "Silent Auction." There were so many interesting antiques brought by the members that it was necessary to set up some of the antiques on a second table. The items which had no bids were then auctioned off by Mrs. Henry Adams, who handled the auction like a professional. As is customary with the Quakerstown Chapter, for the past seven years, the proceeds of this auction are contributed to the Farmington District Library toward the purchase of new books on antiques.

Members contributing toward this affair were: Mrs. H. P. Adams, Mrs. Jos. Baou, Mrs. M. B. Bresler, Mrs. Wm. J. Conroy, Mrs. K. P. Davidson, Mrs. Philip Day, Mrs. J. T. DeNies, Mrs. Edw. Fathman, Mrs. Howard Dow, Mrs. E. L. Draper, Mrs. F. R. Harding, Mrs. F. E. Harrison, Mrs. M. Mock, Mrs. Geo. Newman, Mrs. R. W. Shafte, Mrs. C. M. Timmons, Mrs. B. Thompson, Mrs. Yardley and Mrs. W. Zimmerman.

ELIMINATE GARBAGE CAN MESS FROM YOUR HOME for only pennies a day...

with an AUTOMATIC Smokeless, Odorless GAS INCINERATOR

DRY YOUR LAUNDRY FLUFFY-SOFT anytime regardless of the weather

WORK-SAVING GAS DRYERS dry more... dry faster... dry for less!

FARMINGTON WATCH & CLOCK REPAIR
ALL WORK GUARANTEED ONE YEAR
32334 Grand River (Just off Oak) GR. 4-6530
Your Watch Electrically Regulated FREE!