

# The Platte Enterprise

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Platte, Charles Mix County, South Dakota

Photo by Sharon Huizenga

A Swedish heritage reunion held Thursday, July 6, through Monday, July 10, brought 56 guests from Sweden as well as many from the United States and Canada.

The Swedish visitors are descendants of Spinnel-Anna and are related to the Platte area descendants of Andrew and Brita Johnson who came to the United States from Sweden 18 years ago.

A reunion is held about every five years alternating between Sweden and the United States, with the first being held in Platte in 1980 and another in 1990. A Platte contingent traveled to Sweden in 1982 and again in 1995.

The Swedish visitors arrived here by chartered bus last Thursday at 5 p.m. After registering at the Platte Community Building, they were taken to the homes of Platte area host families.



*CO-ORDINATORS - Lennart Stensson of Sweden and IlaVae Antonsen of Platte were the two people largely responsible for planning the Spinnel-Anna reunion that was held in Platte last Thursday through Monday. In rear is Clara Knutson, who hosted Britt Jonsson of Sweden.*



Friday they were treated to a morning brunch, catered by Shorty's, at the Community Building with no planned activities during the day. Several did attend the Burke Stampede Rodeo. A supper was served at the Community Building that evening



*JOHNSON RELATIVES - Maj Eriksson (left) of Sweden visits with Berniece Johnson and her daughters, Jeanenne Williamson of Sioux Falls and MaryBeth Kuiper. Maj stayed in the home of Larry and MaryBeth Kuiper*

Following brunch at the Community Building on Saturday, guests and host families headed to Gramps' Lodge to enjoy boat rides on the Missouri River, horse drawn wagon rides from the lodge to the Johnson homestead, volleyball, Swedish games, visiting and live music furnished by Carol Weins and a musical group consisting of Mark Hegge, Bob Norfolk, Tom Travis, Ray and Kay Mushitz and Suc Kemnitz.

Prior to an evening bog roast and potluck meal at the lodge, an outdoor group photo of a very warm bunch of Swedes was taken by a brave Enterprise photographer perched high in a front end loader.



*MORE JOHNSON RELATIVES - Lennart and Karin Lundberg (left) of Sweden were guests in the Rudy and Dorothy Johnson home.*

Sunday morning a special church service for the group was held at Trinity Lutheran Church. Lee Qualm welcomed guests. Trudy Qualm, Paula Nelson, Shirley Johnson and Russell Sly provided special music. The afternoon was open to spend with host families.

An evening meal, catered by the Platte Locker, was served at the Community Building followed by a program with representatives from Canada, Sweden and the United States taking part. There was singing, dancing, auctioning off of Spinnell-Anna T-shirts, a gift exchange between reunion coordinators, IlaVae Antonsen of Platte and Lennart Stensson of Sweden and much visiting and reminiscing. The program ended with everyone joining the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again".

Monday the Swedish group left by chartered bus for the Black Hills and other points of interest before returning to Sweden.



*SWEDISH ENTERTAINMENT - Lennart Stensson of Umea, Sweden, led group singing Sunday night.*



*DANCERS - Jamie (left) and Dawn Pryor of Bullhead City, AZ, performed a dance routine at the program Sunday evening*



*SLEEPING SWEDE - Robin Lindgren of Sweden fell asleep on a pair of folding chairs Sunday evening. He was a guest in the Bob and MaryLee Erickson home*

Swedish guests and their host family included:

Doris Brink and Siv Johansson, at Arlo Nelson home;  
 Bertil Branin, Inger and Oskar, at Jim Erickson home;  
 Inga-Lis Branin and Gullan Westerlund, guests of Verylis Boyd;  
 Margith Branin and Hans Erixon, at Vernell Qualm home;  
 Gun Claesson, Bert-Olov Axelsson and Kerstin Jansen, at Lyle Schipper home;  
 Laila Engman, Martin and Kalle, at Kurt Antonsen home;  
 Monika Grape and husband Roger, at Norman Lien home;  
 Thure and Margareta Wasterby and Anna Johansson, guests of IlaVae Antonsen;  
 Anna-Britt Jonsson, guest of Dwight and Clara Knutson;

Adine Naslund, Aida Sandstrom and Ragnvalg Eriksson, at Lyle DeHaan home;  
 Sofie Johansson, Birgitta Wilhelmsson, Hakan and Margaretha Gustafsson, at Lee Qualm home; Lennard and Karin Lundberg, at Rudy Johnson home;  
 Karl and Sara Markston, guests of Vern Holters;  
 Irene Nordlander, Ivar Lundberg and Vivian Westin, at Albert Beltman home;  
 Lennart, Britt-Inger and Johan Stensson, at Rena Johnson home;  
 Roland and Maj Eriksson, at Larry Kuiper home;  
 Ove Persson, Asa and Robin Lindren, at Bob Erickson home;  
 Margareta Gustafsson and Gun-Mari Walterholm, at DeLyle Johnson home;  
 Birgitta and Dan Axelsson, at Paul Johnson home;  
 Inga-Lena Holmgren, Daniel and Ida Tjarnstrom, and Ulrika Lindell, guests of Jerry Erickson at Nelson lodge;  
 Elma and Kenneth Lovgren at Lyle DeHaan home.

Those registering from out-of state were:

Carlee Anderson, Huntington, UT;  
 Ruby Anderson, Kingman, AZ;  
 Mabel Crist, Engelwood, CO; Eileen Dart, Booneville, AR; Evalyn Blaha, Schenectady, NY; Bud and Judy Buelow, White Bear Lake, MN; Norman and Mary Tunison, Fortville, IN; Don and Marty Pryor, Jamie and Dawn, Bullhead City, AZ; Allan and JoAnn Anderson, Cypress, CA; Adrian and Gladys, Smith, North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada;



*T-SHIRT AUCTIONED - Jacque Sly of Rapid City hands Hans Erixon (right) of Sweden the Spinnel-Anna T-shirt he purchased at auction Sunday evening. Also pictured is Vernell Qualm, who served as auctioneer.*



*COLORADO GUESTS - On hand Monday morning to say goodbye to the Swedish relatives were, from left, Cameron, Darrell, and Scott Luethy of Denver.*

Stan Tunison, Robbinsdale, MN; Bill and Donna Paxton, Greenfield, IN;  
Mel Anderson, Strasburg, CO; Jene and Joan Sherry, Chatsworth, CA;  
Britt Lundgren, Arden Hills, MN; Cynthia Harms, Denver;  
Mildred Howard, Ferndale, WA; Lorraine Norbeck, Balsam Lake, WI;  
Jack and Marjie Rogers, Engelwood, CO; John and Sylvia Allen, LaCrescent, Mn;  
Florence Seidel, Racine, WI; Laurie Baker, Los Osos, CA;  
Carol Davis, Port Angeles, WA; May McCaskell, British Columbia;  
Darrell Luethy and Scott and Cameron Luethy, Denver;  
Delores Leonard, Seattle; Elaine Sherry, Fresno, CA;  
Leanne Erickson, Littleton, CO; Rick, Sue, Josh and Tyler LeFant, Aurora, CO;  
Redding and Carol Pogue, White Bear, MN; Pete Isberg, Santa Clara, CA;  
John Isberg, San Jose, CA;

Those registering from other towns in South Dakota were:

Jerry and Becky Erickson, Sioux Falls; Lyle and Ruth DeHaan, Geddes;  
Vernell and Louise Johnson, Lyons; Richard and Jeanenne Williamson, Sioux Falls;  
Jeff and Preston Johnson, Pierre;  
Craig and Marcia Johnson, John, Joshua and Ernily, Rapid City;  
Vern and Joan Hoftter, Verrnillion; Gerald and RuthAnn Johnson, Pierre;  
Verylis Boyd, Mitchell; Jackie Si Russell and Ann, Rapid City;  
John and Margar&t Johnson, Mitchell; Dorthea Kuper, Sioux Falls;  
Martha Ritter, Brookings; Seri Getz, Brookings;  
Cheri Knight and children, Alexandria; Jennifer Dvorak and daughter, Wagner;  
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Johnson and son, Sioux Falls;

Those registering from Platte were:

Vernon and Ruth Burnham; Rena Johnson; Kurt and Lorrinda Antonsen;  
Travis, Heather and Callie; Dwight and Clara Knutson;  
Robert and MaryLee Erickson; Jim and Vicki Erickson and Kip, Paul and Carmain Johnson;  
Gary and Paula Nelson; Bruce and Karen Erickson;  
Berniece Johnson; Gene and Faith VanZee; Donna Peterson;  
Rollie and Karen Warejeka and boys; Jean Thompson; Joyce Meyerink;  
Arlo and Sandy Nelson, Enoch and Ardys Olson;  
Albert and Dolly Beltman; Lyle and Everine Schipper;  
Lee and Trudy Qualm, Renee, Jon and Otto; IlaVae Antonsen;  
Norm and Sharon Huizenga; Norman and Irene Lien, Vernell and Jerralynne Qualm;  
Larry and MaryBeth Kuiper; DeLyle and Shirley Johnson and Richard Johnson.