

# Swedish Roots In Oregon

## *An Immigration Research Project*



June 2012 Newsletter

Editor: Leif Rosqvist

Volume 25

### Message from your President - Lars Nordström

It has been another busy winter and spring for Swedish Roots in Oregon. After a long and frustrating period of seemingly insurmountable technical problems for the SRIO database (which contains genealogical information on Swedish immigrants to Oregon), we are very pleased to announce that we have finally had a breakthrough with this material.

The genealogical project goes back to the very inception of SRIO. Well over ten years ago, Bertil Sundvall began the slow and arduous work of compiling a genealogical database of Oregon Swedes. His idea was to gather as many individuals as possible, and through SRIO, share the information with relatives on both sides of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, since there was no commonly used website interfaces available at that time, the names were stored in a format that could not be displayed and easily shared as website-making software evolved. So the material languished unseen and unused for many years.

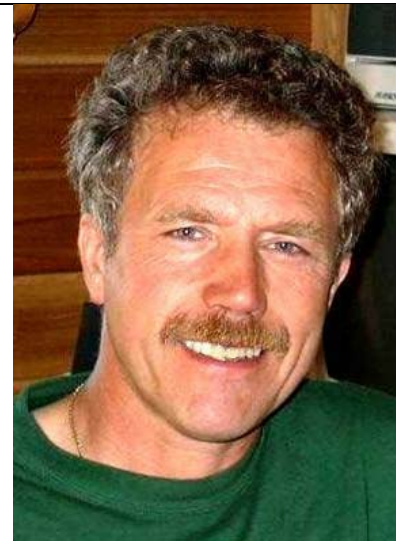
Then, thanks to the efforts of SRIO genealogist Barry Peterson and Swedish-American Texan David Borg, who had initiated a similar project listing the Swedes of Texas, SRIO was finally able to add its Oregon database material as a part of the larger Swedish America Heritage Online site. Please check out the brand new "Genealogy" tab on the SRIO website, where a link will take you to the Oregon genealogical material. Work still needs to be done to make searching more user-friendly, but at least that material is finally available. Many thanks to SRIO's genealogist Barry Peterson for working so hard on this!

I should perhaps add here that the gathering of Swedish Oregon names is far from complete, so if you have names and dates of Swedish Oregon immigrant ancestors, please share them with us. We will give them priority in getting them online. We are planning to upgrade our online capability soon to be compatible with the genealogical effort of the Swedish American Heritage Online site.

SRIO member Ingeborg Dean has continued to transcribe interviews in the ongoing oral history project, and her diligence has yielded some wonderful stories. These mostly 20th century voices, belonging both to immigrants and their children born here, provide glimpses of the Swedish-American experience around the state of Oregon in the twentieth century. We hope to gather these edited stories and finalize the manuscript later this year.

The Scandinavian community will celebrate Midsummer in Oaks Park in Portland on Saturday, June 16. As usual, SRIO will have its table there, and we hope to see you then!

Ha en riktigt trevlig sommar!





SRIO is participating in the 84th Annual  
**Portland Scandinavian Midsummer Festival**

Saturday, June 16, 2012

Presented by: Scandinavian Heritage Foundation & League of Swedish Societies

Time: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Much written information about Swedish immigration in to Oregon available

Music, Dancing, Games

Scandinavian Foods, Vendors & Beer Garden

Raising of the Maypole 1:00 p.m.

Oaks Park

7805 SE Oaks Park Way

Portland, OR 97202

\$6 adults / \$3 children (6 - 12 years of age) / Family \$15 (2 adults, 2 children)

## Oral histories of contemporary Swedish immigrants to Oregon - Ingeborg Dean

As Lars mentioned on page one, SRIO member Ingeborg Dean has continued to transcribe interviews in the ongoing oral history project, and her diligence has yielded some wonderful stories. These mostly 20th century voices, belonging both to immigrants and their children born here, provide glimpses of the Swedish-American experience around the state of Oregon in the twentieth century. Here are some excerpts from the stories she is translating and documenting for us.



*“The fact that Mother never wanted to speak Swedish was rooted in her belief that if you are going to be an American citizen, you had to learn the language. There was a newspaper called Svenska Posten printed in Seattle. It was in Swedish, and Mother wouldn't read it when visitors brought it down to her, at least not in front of anybody. But I think that she secretly did read it, because it would be around for a long time...”*

*“When I left (Sweden) I had 47 cents. When I came into New York, I had \$50. Think of that! You see, there was my fiddle. I played it on the boat from 9:00 pm to 10:30 pm, and then we took up a collection. There was an accordion player from the south of Sweden, and we were given money, so, boy, I had money when I arrived in New York...”*

*“I came to Portland in 1943...The day after I arrived I walked out on Burnside to see if I could find any Swedish names on businesses. There was one, Erikson's restaurant down on the corner. So I went down there, and just as I took hold of the door it flew open and somebody had a fellow by the neck and threw him outside...”*

If everything works out as planned we should have these stories ready for publishing the next year. Information will appear on our website [www.swedishrootsinoregon.org](http://www.swedishrootsinoregon.org)

If you have information that you would like to share about your immigrant's experience coming to Oregon, please don't hesitate to contact us at SRIO.

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### SRIO needs your help!

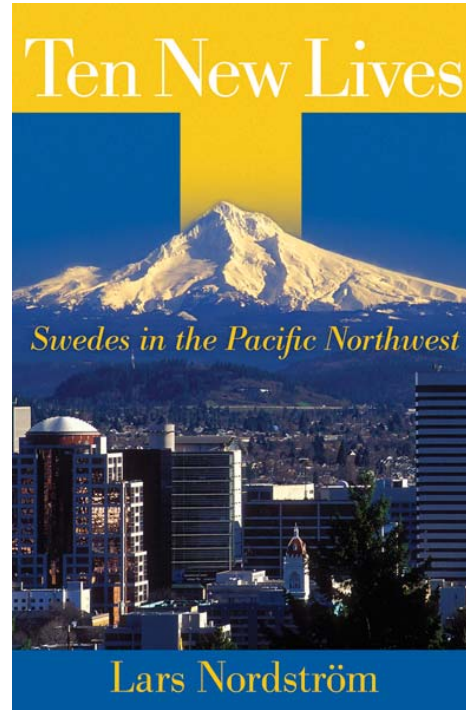
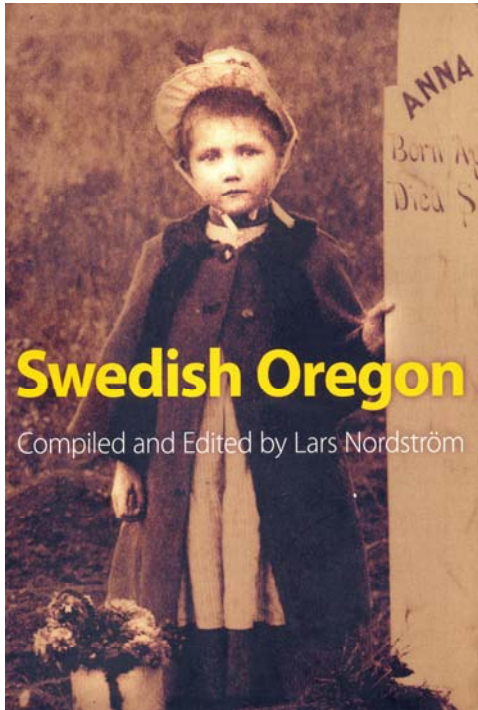
The mission of Swedish Roots in Oregon is to research, preserve and document the history of the Swedes in the state of Oregon. Basically we are interested in material from any period since statehood. We are especially interested in ethnographical materials, that is to say, such things as historical photographs, diaries and letters. We are also interested in any kind of printed material—books, magazines, newspapers, old events programs, and so on. If your family has preserved material of this kind, and you would like to share it, we want to hear from you. We can't do it without you!

If you feel you have something of interest, please contact us via email: [president@swedishrootsinoregon.org](mailto:president@swedishrootsinoregon.org)

The SRIO Web site will now accept on-line orders and donations -  
Herje Wikegård, Webmaster



The SRIO web site now has a new central Order page where you can add the SRIO books and the Wall Calendar to an on-line shopping cart. The actual transaction takes place on secure pages hosted by PayPal. This enables VISA and other credit card payments, as well as transfers from other PayPal accounts. The payment goes into SRIO's new PayPal account and we will ship the product when PayPal notifies us about the order and the shipping address. The old way of printing out a form and mailing it in with a check is still available on that same Order page, but we are very excited about this more convenient on-line way of ordering our wall calendar and books. For donations we will send a "Thank You" confirmation. We are a 501(c) (3) compliant non-profit organization.



### Order both

"Swedish Oregon" and  
"Ten New Lives" together for **\$30**

More information, and to see the newsletter in color, visit our website:  
[www.swedishrootsinoregon.org](http://www.swedishrootsinoregon.org)