

Chicago, Illinois USA
June 20, 1980

Björklund släktmöte

Warm greetings to you as you gather again for the reunion. It would be a great pleasure for us to attend your family gathering. Beatrice and I remember well and with pleasure the släktmöte in 1970. From that event and from a certain amount of correspondence through the years have come some fine contacts. And some of you have paid us a visit. We are waiting for others of you to do the same.

As I write these lines Faster Karin and her grand daughter are visiting the Björklund family in Washington and Oregon. We are sorry that their plans do not include a visit to us here in Chicago. But a week ago we talked with them on the phone. They will have much to relate to you, especially because of the eruptions of Mt. St. Helens. We are nearly 2,000 miles away from Seattle so you can see we know very little about the mountain's antics--only what we read in the newspapers and what we see on TV.

Beatrice and I are still in Chicago. We had planned to move out toward Seattle a year ago when my job ended (due to budgetary cutbacks). However, we stayed on because for one reason, the economic conditions were unfavorable for the selling of our house. Now I am on the staff of North Park Covenant Church as associate pastor and I am enjoying this service tremendously.

Beatrice continues to work three shifts a week as a nurse at nearby Swedish Covenant Hospital. Julie, whom some of you will remember lives in an apartment in Oak Park and works at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. She has a good position there.

John and Carol are well and active especially in the church where he is the pastor. They have a son, Matthew, who will be five years in August. And, on May 28th, they welcomed a little girl, Anne Elizabeth. We are all overjoyed! We plan to drive out there (Butler, Pennsylvania--500 miles from us) the end of July and it will be my honor and privilege to baptize her on July 27.

We keep in touch with many cultural activities involving Swedish groups. This evening we will attend the performance of HIMLASPELET presented by a large group from Leksand, Sweden. The entire summer here provides opportunities to see and hear groups from Scandinavia. We remember well the fine chorus which performed here two years ago, from Finland. The director was a teacher in Jakobstad.

We are a bit slow in writing to those of you who write to us. We shall try to do better.

I hope that we shall hear from some of you telling us about the släktmöte. Welcome to our home whenever you travel to our country. And, God bless you all!

Paul and Beatrice Björklund