



THE  
**SCANDINAVIAN**  
CLUB of TOLEDO

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

NOVEMBER, 2015

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hej everyone,

The holidays are rapidly approaching and colder weather is just a few days away. Soon we will be thinking of the turkey, and beyond that, Julfest and spending time with our friends and family. Before that, however, we will be having our November meeting at the Perrysburg Library where we will have the pleasure of watching Kathryn Thompson's video of her family in Sweden. Also, for those of you who may be interested, the Club's book group will be meeting Tuesday, November 10, at Encore Books, 4400 Heatherdowns at 7:00. We will be discussing **Halldór Laxness's** "*Independent People*", a Nobel Prize winner from Iceland. Hope to see you at one of these gatherings.

Tack så mycket,

John

**In Memorium**

Club member **Milton Mann** died on September 29th, 2015, as a result of injuries from a car accident. He was 89. Milton was preceded in death by his wife, Lee, with whom he had three children, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. His sister lives in Michigan with her family. He served in the Army in World War Two, then graduated from UT in 1948, and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1958. He began a church in Hilliard, OH, then moved to St. Mark's in Fremont where he served for 18 years. He served as Chaplain for the Fremont Police Dept. and for the Wood County Sheriff's Dept. He leaves behind his family, and his close friend **Lois Staber**, our Club's Vice President. He will be missed.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 per adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF TOLEDO** and mail to: **KRIS JOHNSON, PO Box 355, WILLISTON, OH 43468**

# Uddeholm

Our November Meeting will be held at  
**Perrysburg's Way Public Library**  
on Sunday, November 22, at 2 pm.

**Program** :: Our Secretary, Katherine Thompson, will be sharing a short video called **Uddeholm**, and is the name of the Swedish home-town of one of her grandfathers. It shows the old steel mill and has beautiful footage of the now serene landscape.

**Menu** :: **Its a Fika!!** Bring something light to share — for example: cheese, hardtack, small sausage, herring, cookies, coffee cake — whatever! The club will provide Coffee and Tea.

**Reservations** :: Please contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at [cjohnson143@woh.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson143@woh.rr.com) or at 419-836-7637, to let her know your name and how many of you will be attending. There is no cost to attend this meeting.

**Location** :: Way Public Library, in downtown Perrysburg, Ohio.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Toledo, go across the bridge at Maumee into Perrysburg. Curve left at the first stoplight onto River Rd. Turn right at the next stoplight, at downtown P-burg. Library is on the left after the railroad tracks, at the corner of Louisiana and W. Indiana Avenues. Park in parking lot. Inside the library, take the elevator downstairs. We will be meeting in one of the large meeting rooms.



**Scand Book Club**

Join us for our next scandinavian book club meeting, where we'll discussed "*Independent People*", by Icelandic author **Halldór Laxness**. We'll meet at Encore Books (northwest corner of Heatherdowns & Key) at 7:00 pm, on Tuesday the 10th. This novel secured the Nobel Prize in Literature for Laxness in 1955.

**International**

Swedish author Henig Mankel died on October 5th. Mankel was best known for his Walander books, which now air on PBS. He is considered by many to be the leader in Swedish crime fiction.

**Nobel Prizes**

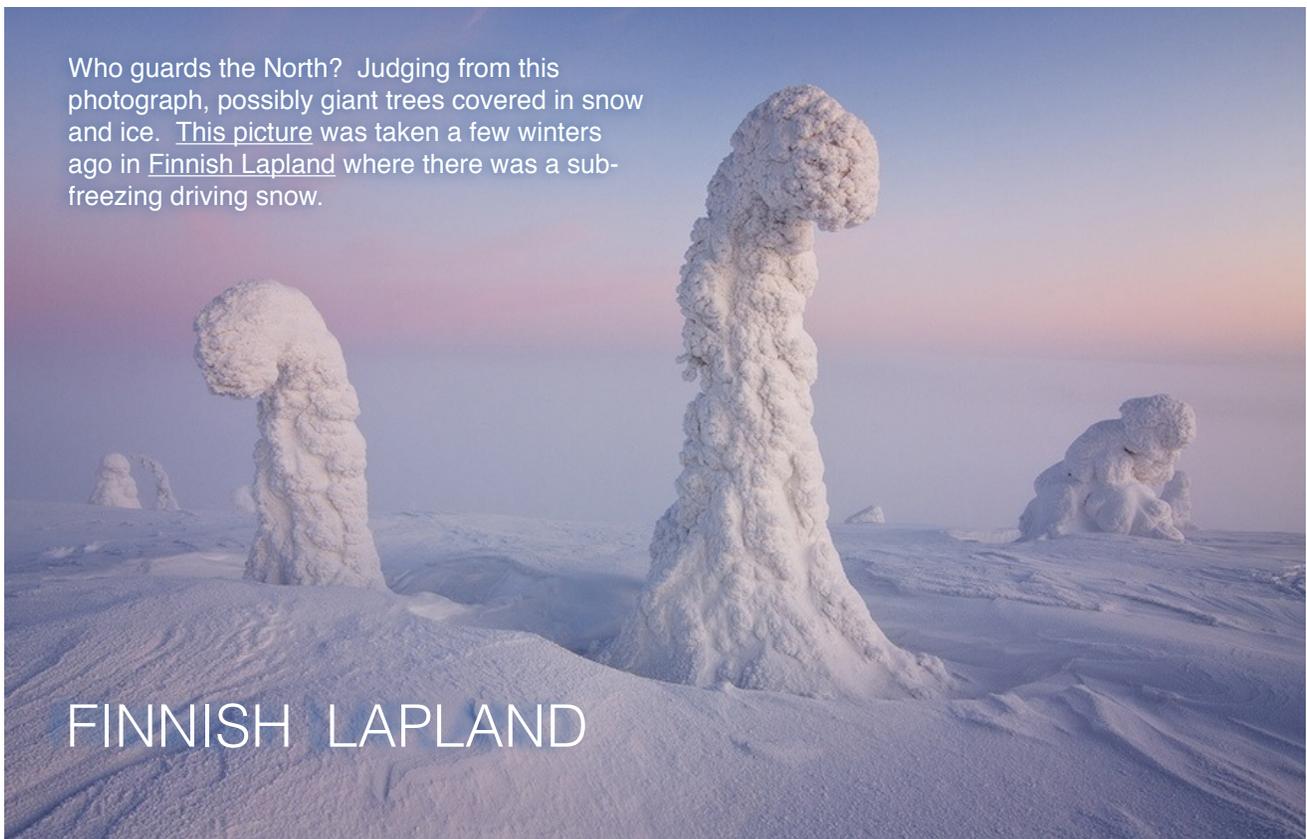
The annual prizes for notable achievements in the arts and sciences were given out recently. Learn more at [Nobelprize.org](http://Nobelprize.org). A new Nobel Center will open in Stockholm in 2019.

2015-16 Board

John L Jacobson, President  
Lois Staber, Vice President  
Kris Johnson, Treasurer  
Katherine Thompson, Secretary  
Members at Large:  
Jan Wahl, Ruth Alteneeder, and Judy Jokinen Nickoloff.

[scandinavian-club@hotmail.com](mailto:scandinavian-club@hotmail.com)

Who guards the North? Judging from this photograph, possibly giant trees covered in snow and ice. [This picture](#) was taken a few winters ago in [Finnish Lapland](#) where there was a sub-freezing driving snow.



## FINNISH LAPLAND

## Swedish City Names

Swedes have unique names of their cities to ponder. Many of these have unusual meanings, often the result of circumstances which are unfamiliar even to many Swedes.

Stockholm, the national capital, literally means "log island." It's not like that at all these days. The modern city spreads out over a dozen islands and peninsulas, but there is a story behind the name.

There is a legend, which every young student learns sooner or later, that Birger Jarl set a log afloat in beautiful Lake Malaren and announced that he would build his capital where it went aground. The 700-year-old Old Town (Gamla Stan), which occupies one of the smallest but most strategic of the city's many islands, was the result. It has many fine structures, including the Royal Palace, the Great Church, and those on the Main Square.

Birger Jarl is still around Stockholm in the name of a street and that's about as close to being "log island" as the city can come. There are some artificial trees of note, however — the handy overlooks in this city affluent with water, such as the Katarina Elevator (Katarinahissen), the Tower of City Hall (Stadshuset), and the TV tower (Kaknästornet) north of Djurgården.

Birger Jarl may well have cut his floating log from forests around Stockholm. This close-in wealth of natural beauty has resisted the growing urbanization, especially in the archipelago.

Many Swedish place names have physical origins. Saltsjöbaden, in the Stockholm archipelago, means "salt sea bathing place"; it is one of Europe's premiere resorts. Sundbyberg, also near Stockholm, translates as the "village between the sound and the hill" while Torshälla comes out "the hill where Tor lived."

Uppsala, just a short ride from Stockholm, is a directional name, derived from Old Nordic, and means simply "the dwelling up there." The literal meaning of the name would be acceptable even today to some Swedes whose thinking patterns tend to stop at the borders of Uppland and exclude the majestic north country. "The dwellings up there" still are something special — from Dag Hammarskjöld's grave and the old burial mounds of Viking kings, to the painted rooms of farmhouses in the Old Uppsala open air museum.

In that north country which some Swedes ignore so easily, there is a lusty frontier quality to the names: Umeå, Piteå, Skellefteå all take their names from the rivers which spawned them.

Härnösand, interestingly, probably got its identity from Old Swedish. "Hearn" meant hilltop and identified this geographical feature as being near sand. Neighboring Sundsvall (Sundzvaal in the oldest letter of privileges dated 1621) literally means "wall at the sound" although the city inhabits a riverbank.

An entire game could be played without leaving southern Sweden, so diverse are the names there. Coastal Kalmar, like Stockholm a favorite tourist haven, takes its name from the runic Swedish "I Kalmarna" — a pile of rocks or cairn. The hand-hewn stones which have been piled in expert fashion to create Kalmar Castle are more interesting, although the rocky coastline remains.

Other coastal cities have interesting names: Karlskrona literally means "Karl's crown," which the Swede understands to mean one of that king's major accomplishments; Västervik translates as "West inlet"; "hamn" in Karlshamn means harbor; and so on.

Linköping is one of the Swedish cities which carry the suffix "köping", meaning borough or market town. The "lin" could either be a corruption of "lung" or heather or be descended in some manner from the lingonberry. Swedes prefer to translate the name "Heather borough."

Many names in south Sweden, like those in the north, are geographical. Växjö comes out "the roads at the lake" and is a dead give-away that ancient Swedes identified places by what they saw or did there. The 90,000 lakes in Sweden assure Växjö many cousins.

Delightful Skåne has many curious names. Hässleholm was named for a manor house of the same name — "holm" meaning small island, and the prefix referring to a hazel grove. Modern-looking Hässleholm still has many quiet groves scattered around. Malmö began as "Malmoughe" or sand pile, which is vaguely descriptive of the many fine beaches in the vicinity.

In the Swedish countryside, the name "Sveden" or the ending "Sveden" is rather frequent. It seems like a misspelt "Sweden" but the name really means "the burnt-beaten clearing." Sweden in Swedish, on the other hand, is "Sverige", which is derived from "Svea rike", meaning the kingdom of Svears.

—from a 1970 article from Aitkin Independent Age newspaper, Minnesota. Sent in by Willard Misfeldt.