

Swedish Rotarians here as part of international exchange program

by Shirley Whittington
Six visitors from the land of the midnight sun brought a good deal of Swedish sunlight to the Midland area last Wednesday.

They were members of a Rotary Club International Group Exchange, and the Rotary district which sponsored them lies partially within the Arctic circle.

There was only one Rotarian in the group. Eric Bystrom a bank manager from Skelleftea was the Governor's representative from District 232 in Sweden. With him came 33-year-old Lennart Blixt, a lawyer turned dairy farmer; Per Hammar, 32, a Vicar of the Church of Sweden; Erik Lasko, 27, a physical and electrical technician; Roger Sjogren, a 28-year-old economist employed by Volvo, and Carl Magnus Winden, 31, a teacher of English and German.

Early on Wednesday the group toured the Mental Health Centre in Penetanguishene, and Sainte Marie Among the Hurons. Later in the evening, at a festive Rotary Ladies' Night dinner, the Swedish guests talked about their country.

All spoke English well, and with considerable wit. When Carl Winden mentioned that he had two children, aged one and four, a Rotarian waggishly wondered what happened to two and three.

Winden replied smoothly that the new math had been introduced for some time in Sweden.

The Swedish visitors joined in the singing of the Canadian National anthem and then, facing a large Swedish flag, they sang their anthem for the assembly. A coloured film (from Sweden with Love demonstrated cultural and scenic highlights of Sweden.) The showing was followed by a lively question and answer session which lasted past 11 p.m.

Most of the questions centred on Sweden's political and economic system. Midlanders were told that Sweden is now governed by a non-socialist three

party coalition. "But," said Sjogren, "the government in power gets the blame for current poor economic conditions, so it's likely that the next government may be socialist again. There is an election every three years."

Income taxes are high in Sweden. Out of an average income of 14,000, 46 percent goes to the government in taxes. All goods are subject to a 17 percent sales tax. Swedish residents are also taxed for a capital gains.

Unemployment is considered a problem in Sweden, but it seems relatively low at 2 percent. Companies which find themselves in difficulty are government subsidized, and according to Sjogren, labour unions cooperate with the government. Strikes are almost unheard of and wage demands are not excessive. He admitted that productivity is not as high as it should be.

Housing is expensive. A family home costs from \$60,000 to \$100,000, and many Swedes live in apartments. Those who wish to build a home must first submit their plans for community approval.

Carl Winden was asked to explain the compulsory

English language learning program.

"If we want to make contact with the outside world we have to accept that they don't all speak Swedish. At one time German was the accepted second language, but since the end of the war it has been English, and all students are required to study it from Grade 3. We recognize English as definitely the language of the world," he said.

Swedes learn a sur-

Old Fort bridge should be open by end of June

Despite delays Tay township officials are predicting that the Old Fort Road bridge will open in June.

According to Tay township Reeve Charles Rawson bad winter weather and the half load limit on the local roads early this spring held construction up however, "as far as we can understand the construction company is on

prising amount about Canada through the pages of their local newspapers. One member of the study team reported that Pierre Trudeau was a popular figure in his country.

"And lately, Margaret Trudeau has become a popular figure too. We also have great interest in the satellite which fell on your country," he said. "To me," said another group member, "Canada seems a larger English

speaking Sweden. Our problems are the same, and our climate and topography seem similar."

The Swedish visitors went home with a Midland Centennial souvenir presented by Mayor Moreland Lynn, and with some maple syrup and a banner from the Midland Rotary Club. Said Roger Sjogren "This is the youngest and liveliest of any Rotary Club we have

visited so far." From Midland, the Swedish visitors travel to

Barrie on the next leg of their five-week visit with District 701. Their tour

has included Peterborough, Lindsay, Niagara Falls.

Collingwood, Huntsville, and Sudbury and ends in Rouyn-Noranda on May 23, at a district conference.

Rotarian Rod Ferguson spoke for everyone when he termed the Wednesday night dinner meeting "an interesting and engaging

evening." In reply, Carl Winden reminded those present that one word would get them all they ever needed if any of them ever visited Sweden, one word would get them anything they wanted. That word was "skool!"



Mayor Moreland Lynn (left) presents Roger Sjogren with a centennial plaque commemorating the Swedish Group Study Exchange team's visit to Midland this week. Sjogren was one of eight Swedish Rotarians taking part in the visit.

Staff photo

Presentation



Circus coming

The Midland Shrine Club is bringing the Shrine Circus to Midland for one day only, May 15. There will be two performances, 4:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., at the new Midland Arena. This is the only

fund raising effort made by the club, and net proceeds from the sale of tickets is used to help local area disabled children. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children. Staff photo

ARENA BUILDING FUND

MONSTER DRAW

MAY 6th

YOU CAN WIN

- ★ 1977 Chrysler Newport
- ★ 1977 GM Chevelle
- ★ 1977 Ford Mercury Monarch
- ★ 1977 16' Starcraft boat with 55hp. Evinrude motor and trailer
- ★ Trip for two to Portugal courtesy of TAP Airlines, Portuguese National Tourist Bureau, Travel arrangements by OK Johnson
- ★ 2 RCA Colour TV's with AM/FM radio
- ★ 2 Panasonic Microwave ovens
- ★ Plus over 70 other valuable prizes

Kentucky Fried Chicken, Rolfoto Studios, Mamma Maria Trattoria Rest., Odeon Theatre, Freda's Restaurant, Holders Bakery, Fields Hardware, Perrins Flowers, Uptown Billiards, Midland Fish and Chips, G and M Shoppe, Orr's Jewellers, Pizza Delight, Crawford's Men's Wear, Walter Woods Shoes, Edwards Specialty Shop, Watson's Camera Shop, F.W. Woolworth, Chit-Chat, Arcade Pharmacy, Central Sports, Fred Hook Ltd., Walker's Electric Ltd., Ideal Supply, The Parlor, Huronia Office Supplies, Graham Swales Clothier,

Georgian Home Bakery, P.D. Murphy Jewellery Ltd., Riviera Restaurant, Midland Sewing Centre, Moody Blues, Cartier's Colorific Centre, Twin Lakes Sports, Midland Grill, Shulman's Furniture, People's Dept. Store, Mathers Hobby Centre, Kid's Stuff, Voorzangers, Dynasty Inn, Hutchison Home Furnishings, Country Style Steak House, Windrifter Restaurant, Gunther's Watch Centre, Huronia Travel, Canadian Acceptance Corporation, Hair Yard, Olympia Sports, Muffler Shop, Penetang-Midland Coach Lines, C.K.M.P.,

Midland Build-All, Beaver Lumber, Adco Tire, Kelly Boys, Ron's Steak House, The Place Setting, Home Hardware, Huronia Head Hunters, Midland Curling Club, F.K. Machinery, The Sea Horse, Captain's Quarters, The Beauty Stop, The Friar's Table, Peggy's Ceramics, Brooklea Golf and Country Club, Furnitex Corp. Ltd., Karl Berdan, Jack Frame and Russell Hargraves Insurance Midland Times, Day Specialty, Simpson Sears, Bank of Montreal.

YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:

- A chance at over 70 valuable prizes
- Admission to Gala Monster Draw night-with music by Huronia Harmonizers, Huronia District Band and dance (9-1) featuring 2 local bands
- Buffet prepared by women's service clubs.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE AT

Bank of Nova Scotia, Bank of Commerce, Rene Martins, Walker's Electric, HOS, Seahorse, Mac's Milk, Lamers or from any service club member.

AFTER FRIDAY NIGHT-AT THE DOOR ONLY GET YOURS TODAY

CLEAN-UP

The Town of Penetanguishene

SPECIAL TRUCKS WILL BE PICKING UP REFUSE

LIMBS, OLD FURNITURE, MATTRESSES-
JUNK, GARDEN REFUSE

and everything not taken by Garbage collection

(excepting industrial waste and discarded vehicles)

EAST SIDE **Tues., May 16**

WEST SIDE **Wed., May 17**

PLEASE PLACE REFUSE IN CONVENIENT SPOT FOR PICK-UP

Keep our town
CLEAN

Use the handy refuse containers on downtown streets for small litter