

WAXHOLM FORTRESS.....

Now ladies and gentlemen, if that picture of ships passing into the night has not given you an attack of nostalgia, making you wish that some day you may travel on one of these ships, allow me to give you a picture of what lies directly in back of this fine restaurant. WAXHOLM FORTRESS, which King Gustav Vasa ordered built in the 16th Century in the town of Vaxholm, and was founded by King Johann III. who added to the fortress. King Johann III and Gustav Adolph II stopped the attack of Danish King Christian in 1612. Here is a sample of brotherly love between the Danes and Swedes. Called on a friend of mine, greeting him as a Swede. His reply, "If you had made that remark to my dad you would be dead!" In between 1830 and 1860 the fort was rebuilt as it stands today. The claim is made that no enemies have gotten past Waxholm Fortress!

DINING SWEDISH STYLE.....

The dinner at the Waxholm was an event that this Hay Shaker from Big Foot Prairie USA will ever forget! A large dance floor with orchestra which played the latest American Jazz Music. I heard it so often in Europe ----music must be international! In our group were two Italian brothers from whom Culligan had just purchased 75% of the business. Danny, a second Jack Benny, the other brother much more reserved. But when he stepped up to the mike---what a voice! Prepare yourself for a feast! Of course all diners are served in courses with beer, Swedish lightning, a small goblet pure white. Me? I just inhaled it---and wine. Then that great Crab Special! AT your plate is a large card board bib which is tied around your neck, covering you from neck to uttermost corners of your bay window. A very large plate in on the table before you. Without any fanfare whatsoever, the waiters: came in with large dish pans heaped with small red crabs. The waiter sticks in a good sized "pitchfork" and uses it to pile those crabs onto your plate, and the "Crab Dinner" is on the march! It was asight to see how Stig could crack those shells and dig out the crab meat! Are you kidding? Only one helping? My honest opinion of a Crab Dinner ----too much work for a delicious morsel! I enjoyed just visiting with Carl's wonderful wife, a delightful package of charm and grace! Have you ever partaken of fresh Mallard Duck? The meat has been removed from bones, shaped into roll about three inches in diameter, then sliced and covered with a gravy. Please ladies and gentlemen, excuse me from any further description of this dinner, for the very thought of that Mallard Duck Dinner that night has me drooling like a miniature Niagara Falls.

RETURN TRIP.....

We returned home on the same boat on which we came up. A constant stream of boats and launches passing in the night. On both sides, scattered high and low on those steep hills of granite covered by tall evergreens, one could see the twinkle of lights from the homes built on the bluffs along the Archipelago. True to form, the wife of Stig, looking after Papa Hintz's welfare, brought a pillow, took me up into the cabine of the wheel house, where I sat on a bench beside the helmsman, with the door closed, where I was safe and secure out of the wind, which this wonderful woman was sure was too cold for one of my tender years. Everyone in Sweden takes a 28 day vacation, which is required by law. Stig and his wife spend their vacation aboard their yacht, their last trip being to England.