

PINAL MEETING.....

The party breaks up, all members returning to their homes or to take care of other business. Some were invited to go with Stig on their yacht, a fifty mile trip up the Archipelago to his private island where he has a summer home. Don took pictures of them leaving.

THE VASCA.....

Don and I did not leave until morning, so we took a train into town where we arrived in the rain. Had to put on our raincoats and make a long hike to get to the ferry dock which would take us across to where we could see the VASA, that famous battleship ordered built by Gustavus Adolphus in 1625. On the 10th of August 1628 the Vasca cast off on her maiden voyage, capsizing in Stockholm Harbor! In 1664, fifty three of the Vasca guns were salvaged by the use of a primitive diving bell. We saw the replica of it. To see what was done with that bell at the depth it was used seems almost impossible! In 1956 Anders Franzen located the Vasa. In 1959 the difficult work of tunneling under the hull at a depth of 110 feet was accomplished and the hull was then moved to shallow water off Kastekholm. In 1961, April 4th, she was pumped out and moved into the dock of Beckholm on her keel. She was mounted on a huge concrete pontoon and the Archaeological excavation of the interior was begun! She is now housed in a large aluminum building, which was opened to the public in 1962. The ship was built of oak. The gathering of the curved pieces required, was a tremendous job! The reason the wood lasted for some 300 years under water, was due to Teredo Navalis, a tiny termite which destroys wrecks in salt water only, and cannot thrive and survive in fresh water.

Stockholm is on an island surrounded by fresh water and one huge lock right in town. It is the lock which keeps the sea water from entering. There is a large museum in which all the articles salvaged from the Vasca are being shown, and preserved even to the clothing. Pictures of the quarters where the crew lived are most crude! Even large barrels of salt pork were salvaged that had been aboard the ship since 1628!

UNPLEASANT SIGHTS!

On the way back to the ferry in the rain, waiting under a small tin roofed shed, one member of "TUSA's Gutless Buckets of Human Scum" with a big fat wench in tow, asked Don how things were in the states. Don answered "fine"; "how are things over here?" His reply "so peaceful!" The ferries are built with two long seats on either side; that couple sat opposite us. I think he noted my disgust for he immediately began to fondle the wench. Our TV makes much of Sweden for permitting these "Gutless Wonders" to use it as a sanctuary. Take it from me, those fine people think no more of them than I do...One degree lower than a snake's belly in a rut!

COPENHAGEN.....

Copenhagen, a short flight, beautiful view of the contry's small fields, white houses with red tile roofs. Bus trip past the King's Palace 18th Century Cemetery. The town hall at end of street; fishing village 800 years old, with population of five million people!