

New Methods Successful On Ship Sunk In 1628

By ROBERT M. POOLE

National Geographic News Service

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN — After more than 300 years of neglect and near-oblivion, the Swedish warship *Vasa* is restored, finally, to something approaching her former glory.

The ship, with an inexperienced crew and insufficient ballast, sunk by an untimely gust of wind on her maiden voyage in 1628, will soon make her final journey to a new museum that will be the centerpiece of this city's harbor.

It is the same harbor where the *Vasa* was first launched, where she slept forgotten through the long years, where she was rediscovered and resurrected, and where the painstaking work of restoration began more than 20 years ago.

In those two decades, experts in Stockholm have been hard at work on the *Vasa*, treating her waterlogged timbers with a special preservative of polyethylene glycol and water. The idea was to impregnate the ship's damaged wood with the plastic-like gel that would keep her from collapsing after prolonged exposure to air.

The 20-year treatment of the massive, 200-foot-long ship succeeded, says Lars-Ake Kvarning, director of the *Vasa* Museum.

Some Timbers Cracked

"Evidently it's been working," Kvarning says. "We can see that she reacts just the way it was hoped she would." Some of the timbers are cracked and swollen, but the damage is not extensive, he says.

When the preservation process began in 1961, the museum employed two men to spray the *Vasa's* hull by hand. They would spend all day walking around the great ship with a hose. On a good day, the workers could make it one-and-a-half times around the 1,300-ton ship.

"It was a very, very slow process and very expensive," according to Kvarning.

With time, the museum improved the system. Automatic sprayers, operating like the jets of a carwash, were installed. They would bathe the *Vasa* with chemicals at regular intervals. This heavy spraying continued until 1979, when workers began heating the ship's wood to dry out the excess preservatives.

Now the project is in a polishing-off phase, in which the surface of the ship is coated with several thin layers of plastic to seal out moisture and bacteria that could damage the wood.

The whole process, pioneered for the *Vasa*, has been of great aid to other nations, which have sent their own archeological teams to Stockholm. Many of the techniques used for preserving the *Vasa* will help restore a 16th-century warship, the *Mary Rose*, only recently recovered from British waters.

Artifacts Replaced

In addition to preserving the *Casa's* timbers, Swedish experts have spent years sorting through some 25,000 pieces of wood, metal, clothing, and other items found in or around the ship. Structural artifacts have been restored and returned to their appointed places on board.

This year, construction begins on her new home, a special museum scheduled for completion in 1989. Until then, visitors are welcome at the temporary museum, a drab metal building on the city harbor.

"You can come here and look at what we show," Kvarning says, "but it's a very narrow building, and you never get a very good look over the whole ship. You have to go around and see it piece by piece, and add up the parts in your head."

The new museum is designed so that one can see the whole ship at once, then approach for closer inspection.

Meanwhile, visitors keep coming, more than 500,000 each year, to the *Vasa's* ramshackle temporary quarters, making it the most popular tourist attraction in Scandinavia. (One recent visitor, American rock singer Doug Sahm, was inspired to compose and record a song called "The Ballad of the *Vasa*.")

"Most people are fascinated by it," says Kvarning, "because it gives them a chance to get their imaginations moving. Why did people build a ship like this? How did they build such a large ship with simple tools? What kind of society produced a war machine like this?"

Many of those visitors often linger to view the simple objects found with the wreck. Such artifacts are displayed in a building adjacent to the *Vasa's* berth. Here one sees a gold ring that belonged to one of the crew, there a woolen cap stashed in a carpenter's box, there a stoneware tankard and a clay smoking pipe, awaiting someone's pleasure.

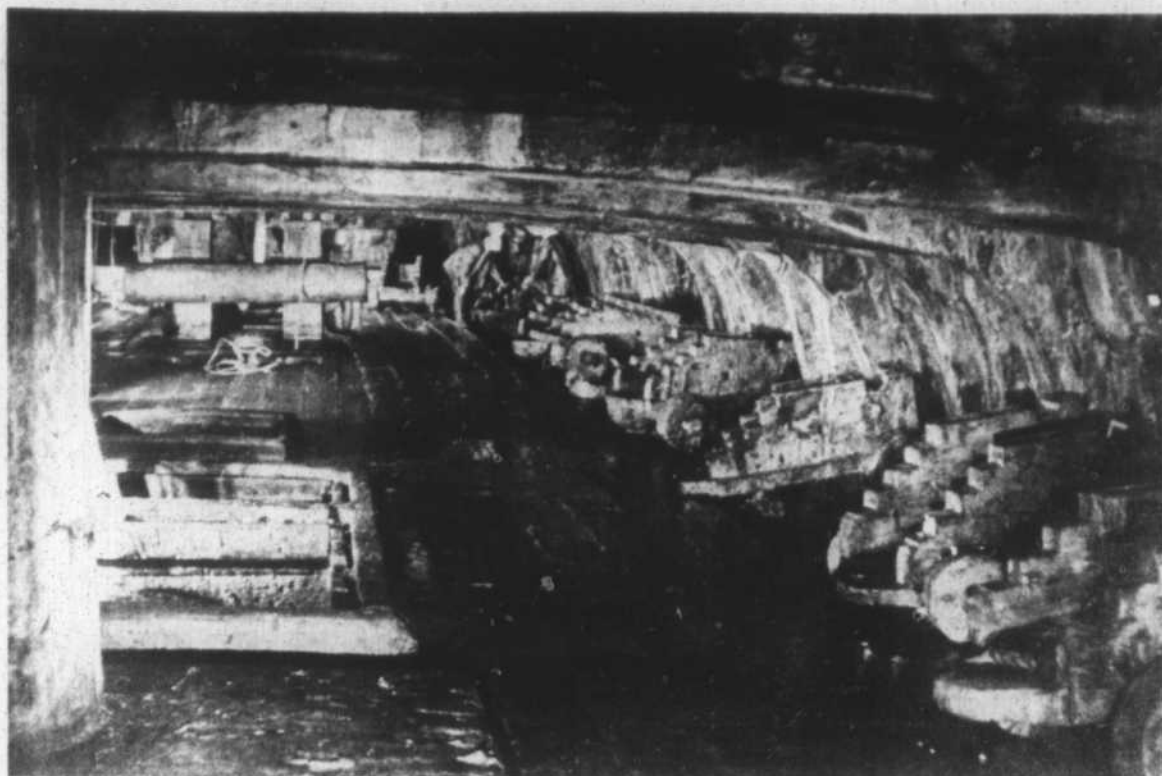
Shoe Stirs Emotions

But perhaps most moving is a single leather shoe, found on the bones of a seaman crushed beneath a cannon. Visitor after visitor will stop and stare in silence at that black shoe, trying to make some connection with the lost sailor who wore it on the *Vasa's* first and only voyage.

Such workaday objects have much to do with the old ship's great appeal, says Kvarning:

"Here you find the belongings of the simple people. What you have in the other museums are mainly the beautiful things, the expensive things belonging to the church or the noblemen and royalty. The people you meet here are the very poor guys who were impressed and forced on ship."

"The *Vasa* is a mirror of the society that produced it."



Empty gun carriages line a deck on the warship *Vasa*, the Swedish vessel that sank on her maiden voyage from Stockholm in 1628. Only three of her bronze guns survive; most were salvaged and sold to Germany in the 17th century. But after 20 years

of painstaking work, which included the sorting and restoration of 25,000 artifacts, maritime experts have pieced the warship together again. A new museum will be ready for the *Vasa* in 1989.

Judge Senter Presides Over Session Of Warren Co. Court

Judge J. Larry Senter of Franklinton presided over the July 31 session of Warren County District Court, disposing of the following cases:

Edward Alexander, assault with a deadly weapon, dismissed by the prosecutor.

William Alexander, assault with a deadly weapon, dismissed by the prosecutor.

Frankie Alston, communicating threats, ordered to pay court costs.

James Alston, assault with a deadly weapon, entered a plea of guilty of simple assault, ordered to pay court costs.

Van Dawson Alston, Jr., driving while impaired, not guilty.

Robert David Bain, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed.

Irene L. Barnes, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

William Ford Barnes, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, ordered to pay a \$5 fine and court costs; driving while impaired, ordered to jail for 60 days, sentence suspended upon condition that the defendant pay a \$75 fine and court costs and not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of N. C. until allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles and in any event, not for a period of 30 days.

Mason Smith Benfield, operating a motorboat without a lifesaving device and with no fire extinguisher device on motorboat, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Howard Allen Caton, driving while impaired, ordered to jail for 60 days, sentence suspended upon condition that the defendant pay a \$75 fine and court costs, not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of N. C. until allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, complete 24 hours of community service within 30 days and pay the \$50 fee, complete the Alcohol and Drug Education Traffic School and pay the \$50 fee; defendant, through counsel, gave notice of appeal to the next criminal session of Warren County Superior

Court, continuing bond to remain in effect.

Clarence Roscoe Cheek, driving while impaired, not guilty.

Roy Bernard Clemens, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Thomas Arnette Cole, Jr., speeding 65 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Allen Daniel, possession/consumption of alcohol on unauthorized premises, dismissed by the prosecutor; disorderly conduct, ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs.

Danny Davis, trespassing without a license, motion by State to continue denied, dismissed by the prosecutor.

Eugene Davis, driving while impaired, ordered to jail for 60 days, sentence suspended upon condition that the defendant pay a \$75 fine and court costs, not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of N. C. until allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, complete 24 hours of community service within 30 days and pay the \$50 fee and complete the Alcohol and Drug Education Traffic School and pay the \$50 fee.

Michael Albert Faulkner, unsafe movement, dismissed by the prosecutor.

Ricky Fleming, disorderly conduct, ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs; possession/consumption of alcohol on unauthorized premises, dismissed by the prosecutor.

Robert Andrew Franklin, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

John Gaudin, assault on a law officer, ordered to prison for six months, to run concurrently with any and all sentences the defendant is now obligated to serve.

Bennie Leroy Goode, no driver's license and driving while impaired, arrest order issued, bond set at \$300.

Shawn Graham, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed,

dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Carolyn Hedgepeth Hicks, expired registration card/tag, dismissed by the prosecutor.

William David Jones, possession / consumption of alcohol on unauthorized premises, ordered to pay a \$35 fine and court costs; disorderly conduct, ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs.

Alvis Leach, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Cecil Xavier Lucas, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Michael Dean Lynch, unsafe movement, called and failed, arrest order issued, bond set at \$50.

Walter Roger Marrow, driving while impaired, ordered to jail for a period of 90 days, sentence suspended upon condition that the defendant pay a \$150 fine and court costs, not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of N. C. until allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, complete the Alcohol and Drug Education Traffic School and pay the \$50 fee, complete 48 hours of community service and pay the \$50 fee and obtain an abuse assessment and pay the \$25 fee.

Kenneth Michael Mayfield, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Ernest Junior Mitchell, operating a motor vehicle without financial responsibility, ordered to pay a \$75 fine and court costs, motion to vacate the 90-day failure allowed.

John L. Monts, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Elizabeth Myrick, assault and battery, dismissed by the prosecutor.

Kolawole Oyelaja, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, arrest order outstanding.

Richard Charles Parker, speeding 70 in

55 mph zone, called and failed.

Herman Person, assault with a deadly weapon, entered a plea of guilty of simple assault, ordered to pay court costs.

Henry Watson Pugh, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, ordered to pay a \$10 fine and court costs; defendant, through counsel, gave notice of appeal to the next criminal session of Warren County Superior Court, continuing bond to remain in effect.

Henry Travis Pulley, II, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, ordered to pay a \$10 fine and court costs.

Robert Lee Rice, driving left of center, court found as a fact that the charge merged with the driving while subject to an impairing substance charge and therefore entered no judgment; driving while impaired, motions to dismiss denied, ordered to jail for 60 days, sentence suspended upon condition that the defendant pay a \$75 fine and court costs, not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of N. C. until allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles except as may be allowed in a limited driving privilege, complete the Alcohol and Drug Education Traffic School and pay the \$50 fee and complete 24 hours of community service and pay the \$50 fee.

Joe Louis Richardson, no driver's license, called and failed, arrest order issued, bond set at \$75.

Lillian Richardson, driving while impaired, not guilty.

Chester Allen Silver, speeding 68 in 55 mph zone, ordered to pay court costs; defendant, through counsel, gave notice of appeal to the next criminal session of Warren County Superior Court, continuing bond to remain in effect.

Travis Alan Silver, no driver's license, called and failed, arrest order issued, bond set at \$75.

Samuel Lee Simpson, speeding 70 in 55 mph zone, called and failed, dismissed with leave by the prosecutor.

Gary Malone Stain- (Continued on page 8B)

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Two From Here Win UNC Grants

Two students from Warren County have been awarded Alston-Pleasants scholarships at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the 1985-86 academic year.

Recipients are Paula Rae Hayes of Norlina and Patricia Diane Pickett, now of Chapel Hill.

Miss Hayes, daughter of Irving Ray and Lou James Hayes of Norlina, graduated from Warren Academy in Warrenton. Miss Pickett, a Warren County High School graduate, is the daughter of Stewart Markham Pickett, Jr. of 5107 Chutney Drive, Durham and Gail Griffin Clower of 124 N. Main St., Warrenton.

The scholarships, established by Miss Missouri Alston Pleasants of Louisburg as a memorial to her grandfather, Willis Alston, are awarded to students from Franklin, Warren and Halifax counties on the basis of outstanding academic ability, qualities of leadership, high achievements, promise of future distinction and need for assistance.

Scholarships may be renewed for each year of undergraduate study and range from \$500 per year to the amount needed by the individual to meet the costs of attending UNC.