

seated at his desk below a map of Sweden that hangs in his Turlock apartment, Henrik Tallgren discusses his research project.

Glenn Moore/The Journal

# Swedish scholar studies Turlock

## Social anthropologist studies changes in customs and culture

By DARLA WELLES  
The Journal

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But it was a study of the area's Swedish population that actually brought Tallgren to Turlock. First, the Swedish social anthropologist came here last year to visit the annual Scandinavian celebration of Scandinavian culture. And now he's come back to spend a year or more living among the area's Swedish Americans.

### Visiting researcher to discuss findings

From staff reports

Henrik Tallgren will discuss his research on Swedish emigrants in America at a brown bag lunch meeting at Cal State Stanislaus Tuesday.

Even though people of different ethnic groups are less likely to live in clusters these days, Tallgren said their cultures continue to thrive in less obvious ways.

"For the most part the Swedish community is invisible, mixed in with all the others," he said. "But if you scratch the surface, you'll find a living Swedish culture under it."

Tallgren said that most Swedes who came to California came as second generation settlers, many moving here from earlier settlements in the inner Midwest.

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But it was a study of the area's Swedish population that actually brought Tallgren to Turlock. First the Swedish social anthropologist came here last year to visit the annual Stenfast celebration of Scandinavian culture. And now he's come back to spend a year or more living among the area's Swedish Americans who are descended from the emigrants who settled in this Central Valley farmland region at the turn of the century.

He's come to see what traditions they've preserved and in what ways they have changed over several generations of life in America. "They are Americans," Tallgren said. "That's their national identity. But they also have their own identity as Swedes. That should not be confused with their national identity, and it does collide with it."

That's one of the few conclusions Tallgren has drawn in the six weeks or so that he's been in Turlock while doing research for his doctoral degree at the University of Goteborg in the Swedish coastal city of Goteborg where he is a teaching position.

So far, he's just been gathering information from reading, researching and observing customs of Swedish heritage and noting what they do to keep their traditions alive within a larger circle of the community. That he's found, he said, is an active spirit of

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Tallgren, a social anthropologist and instructor at the University of Goteborg, Sweden, is in Turlock to do research on the area's residents of Swedish heritage for his doctoral degree.

After his talk he will answer questions from the audience.

His presentation, sponsored by the university's Institute for International Studies, will be held in the South Dining Hall on campus from noon to 1:30.

There is no admission charge for the informal program.

For information call the institute office at 667-3117.

Tradition interwoven into the population's routines of daily living, both here and in larger communities like those in the Bay area. "There used to be a lot of ethnic neighborhoods, especially in the big cities," he said. "But you don't see that as much any more."

## Scholar

A4

early character known as Mrs. Olsen. And he said he's noticed the influence of American's bent for a more healthy diet in the preparation of Swedish meatballs.

"The meatballs are Swedish food in Sweden," he said.

"Here they seem to be missing the eggs and bread that I'm used to.

"They have more meat, leaner meat, and they get harder."

But he said, in a way, that variation is a bit of Swedish tradition, too.

"In Sweden everyone likes his mother's meatballs best," he said.

"And everybody's mother has a different way of making her meatballs."

Even though people of different ethnic groups are less likely to live in clusters these days, Tallgren said their cultures continue to thrive in less obvious ways.

"For the most part the Swedish community is invisible, mixed in with all the others," he said. "But if you scratch the surface, you'll find a living Swedish culture under it."

Tallgren said that most Swedes who came to California came as second generation settlers, many moving here from earlier settlements in the upper Midwest.

He said that many early emigrants from Sweden who came to the U.S. in the mid 19th century bypassed the East Coast to go on to the frontier areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota where land was plentiful and available for homesteading.

It was members of the next generation, he said, who moved on to California 30 to 40 years later, again seeking land to settle on and farm.

Tallgren said he finds it interesting to observe Swedish customs as they are practiced by people who have lived for generations outside Sweden.

"In some ways they are more traditional here than we are in Sweden," he said. "In Sweden the traditions have evolved over the years. Things are not done in the 1890s the same as they were in the 1930s, and in the 1930s things were done differently than they were in the 1880s."

"So what you see here in Northern California is a mixture of old traditions and customs handed down from emigrants that came to Amer-

### Anthropologist talk

TURLOCK — A Swedish anthropologist will discuss his research into Northern California Swedish-Americans Tuesday at Stanislaus State University. Dr. Henrik Tallgren of the University of Goteborg will present his findings and answer questions from noon to 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to no charge, and advised to take a lunch. The campus institute for International Studies is sponsoring the session.

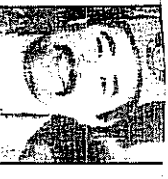
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### Community Digest

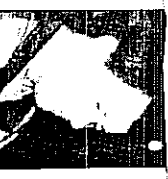
#### Swedish-Americans

Anthropological research related to the Swedish-Americans of Northern California will be presented by Dr. Henrik Tallgren, social anthropologist at the University of Goteborg, Sweden, between noon and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the South Dining Hall at Stanislaus State University. Free admission.

#### MJC wind concert



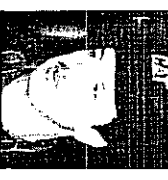
Randall Amaya  
Turlock  
"No, I don't favor it. They n-



Lape Gonzalez  
Turlock  
"Yes. More people to enforce the law would be a good thing."



Toni Devaney  
Turlock  
"Yes, I think it's a fair way to support the coast of California."



Jeff Mounce  
Turlock  
"No, I think we have enough as it is."



Terry Brown  
Turlock  
"I don't care because I live in Delhi."



Wayne Jn  
Turlock  
"Yes, it's good to have and fire pr-



Wayne Jn  
Turlock  
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Yes, I think it's a fair way to support the coast of California.

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