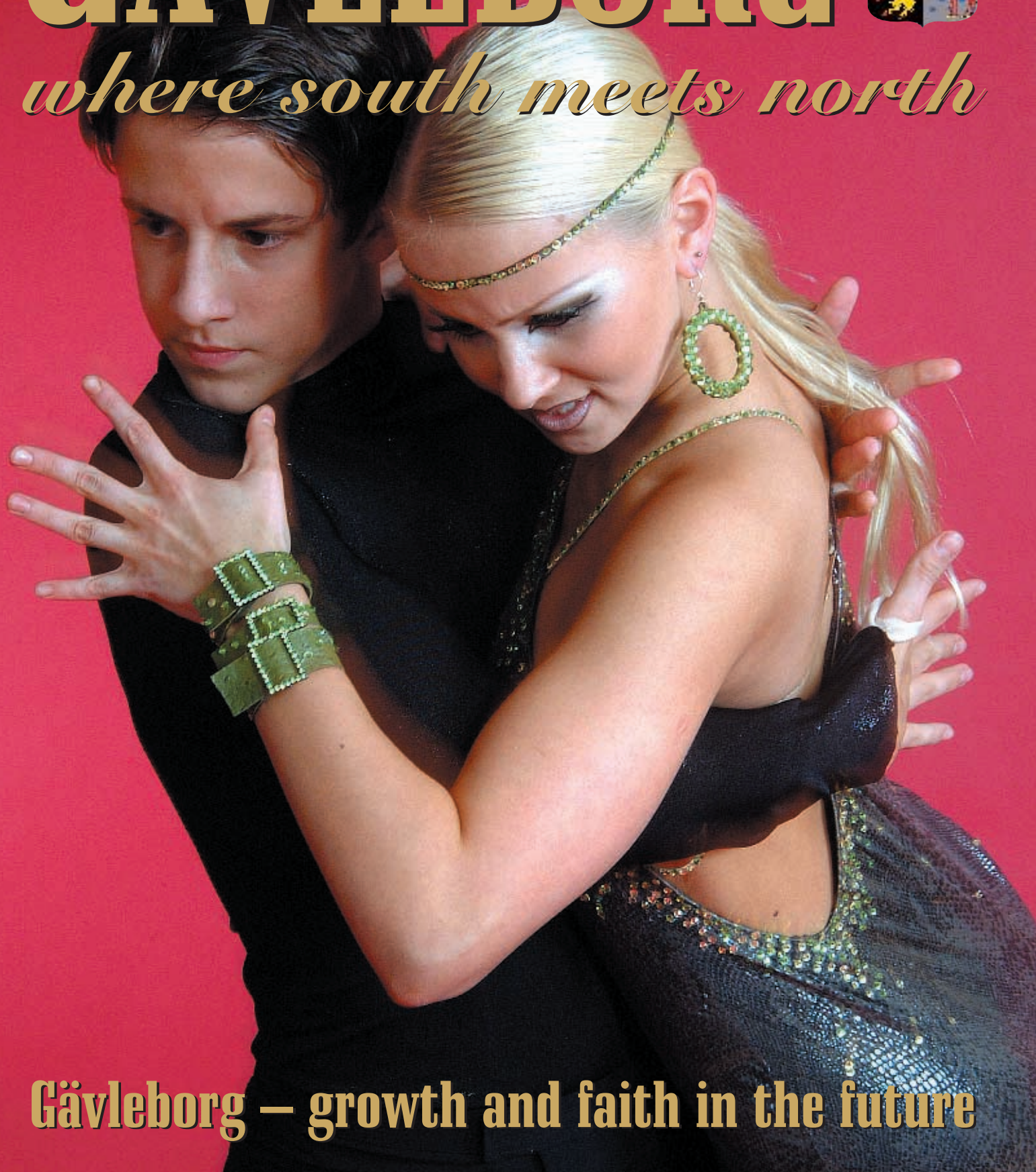


GÄVLEBORG



where south meets north



Gävleborg – growth and faith in the future



The Duchess of Hälsingland and Gästrikland, HRH The Princess Madeleine, awards a stipend to the Horses of the Year from the stables of Gävleborg's trainers. The Goldrider

medallist for the year is also chosen. The Prizegiving is arranged in connection with Gävle's Hästival (Horse Festival), which takes place in July.

Photograph: Toni Sica

The County of Gävleborg

- Population 279 000. Two districts, Gästrikland and Hälsingland, comprising 10 autonomous communes.
- Established as a county in 1762. Current boundaries fixed in 1863.
- 7th biggest county. Area just over 19 000km², slightly more than 4 percent of the area of Sweden.
- Norrland's most southerly county. Norrland's most densely populated county.
- Sweden's most wooded county – 79 percent afforestation.
- County town Gävle, oldest in Norrland, dating from 1446. Population 90 400.
- The most important ports: Gävle, Söderhamn, Iggesund and Hudiksvall.
- 3000 lakes. 360 watercourses. More than 180 kilometers of coastline.
- 104 nature reserves. Two national parks.
- Approximately 80 memorable structures (Byggnadsminnen)

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Coverphotograph: Veera Kinnunen and Anders Jacobsson – Top dancers from Gävleborg.

Proud timber palaces

Serene ironworks and modern architecture

On her eighteenth birthday, Princess Madeleine received a Järvsö costume from the people of the County. Järvsö is one of the County's best known resorts.

Beyond the populated area there are beautifully maintained homesteads in spacious grounds. This type of structure is to be found at several locations in Hälsingland, like Forsabygden and Voxnadalen.

The really big homesteads in Hälsingland are popularly termed "timber palaces". Timber and flax made Hälsingland's farmers rich in the '18th and 19th centuries. Even those with relatively modest ambitions built for the appearance of grandiose scale.

Sweden's most northerly 'proper' palace is in Gävle. It started out as one of Johan III's Renaissance palaces, but was destroyed in a fire in 1727. The Palace was rebuilt in the 1740's from drawings by the architect Carl Harleman, perhaps best known for his work on the Kungliga Slottet (Royal Palace) in Stockholm.

As Hälsingland is renowned for its stately homes, so Gästrikland's distinctive mark is ironworking. Typically, there will be the small works, with the mansion and the high-street and side-streets which have grown up around it. The Iron Kingdom is an established concept and tourist magnet. But the overwhelming majority of tourists make their pilgrimage to the shopping centre at Valbo between Gävle and Sandviken – Northern Europe's biggest shopping centre at the time it was built in 1970. We can only hope that more and more will linger a while at Forsbacka works, with its strangely calm yet thrilling atmosphere. In 1998 the works received a prestigious award from *Europa*



During the 19th century, the rich Hälsingland farmers decorated their homes both inside and out. Interiors with wall-paintings and lavish wall paper are indicative of the quality. Note the joiner's craftsmanship in the wooden bridge. The paintings merely confirm ostentation – what else might have driven these farmers to outdo each other in such magnificent extravagance? No two wooden bridges are the same – the style usually varies from parish to parish.

Photograph: Michael Ahne.

Nostra, a pan-European organisation whose remit is to preserve and maintain Europe's cultural heritage.

There are other works too, which are also well worth a visit – Gysinge, Högbo, Gammelstilla, and many more in Gästrikland, the Iron Kingdom. There are more modern iron-works in both Sandviken and Hofors. Sandviken is a young town with a good deal of modern architecture. 20th century architecture is, generally speaking, well represented in Hälsingland as well as Gästrikland – the older cultural heritage lives side by side with the new.

Ralphaville

■ *The English architect, Ralph Erskine, has lived and worked in Sweden for a long time. Sometimes, in architect circles, Sandviken is referred to as “Ralphaville”, because its character is unmistakably his.*

Erskine’s buildings have appeared in the town during the course of the last fifty years, but there are houses designed by him in Gästrik-Hammarby, Storvik, Hedesunda and – as here – Skogsbyn in Jädrås.

Raw Modernism

■ *Bare concrete and glass meet with the tall pinewoods at this atmospheric chapel in the cementary of Skogskyrkogården, Gävle. A prime example of Swedish modernist architecture. Built in 1960 and designed by the ELLT Group of architects. The architect Bernt Nyberg’s beautiful economy buildings dating from 1965, as well as a pink chapel in classic Swedish 1920’s style by Gunnar Wetterling are visible from Skogskyrkogården churchyard.*





■ The Coromant T-max drill equipped with a Sandvik tungsten carbide bit. The drill is the market leader in metal cutting.

From bean-roasting to fibre-optics

Many of Sweden's leading ice-hockey stars skate on Sandvik steel

Coffee beans have been roasted and processed for several centuries now by Gevalia, whose name is quite simply the Roman name for Gävle.

Annual coffee production in Gävle is 36 000 tonnes. Gevalia was launched in 1927 and became the biggest brand in Sweden by 1966. 1 500 million cups of coffee are drunk every day worldwide. Scandinavia is high in the consumption league tables with Finland at the top and Sweden close second.

At one time Gävle was a confectionary town, making tablet-type sweets like Läkerol and Pix. Pix has gone now except as a label. Läkerol have been successful worldwide. Malaco Leaf, as the business is now called, sells 60 million boxes a year, of which half goes for export. The same firm also manufactures the world's most frequently purchased automobile. In the Millenium year 2000, we choked ourselves on 1.7 billion cars, swallowing being the only way of stopping it according to one advertisement.

Sandvik has also taken the world by storm. In the 1850's Göran Fredrik Göransson paved the way for enormous progress in ironworking when he bought Henry Bessemer's patents and made this revolutionary production method actually work as it was supposed to. Sandvik is a world leader in steel



in a range of specialist applications, manufacturing among other things tools for metal- and timberworking, as well as for mining operations. One of Sandvik's rock drills can deliver fifty blows per second. Each blow delivers an impact equivalent to the weight of fifteen Volvo cars. In its lifetime, the drill will strike four million blows and cut through two kilometers. Many of Sweden's leading ice-hockey stars skate on Sandvik steel.

Originally, timber powered the ironworks. But today, rather than being a means to an end, the forest is intrinsically valuable. The woodlands, which the corporations procured for the iron, have now been turned into hard-board and paper. No less than 95 percent of the tree trunk is used. More than 30 percent is made into pulp or paper, 20 percent is used in products made of wood, and the remainder is converted into bio-energy as heat and electricity.



Gävleborg – Local Economy

Iggesund Paperboard and Korsnäs rank among "Carton elite" with an annual production of more than 300 000 tonnes each. Iggesund produces the world's highest quality carton, so exclusive that perfume manufacturers use it as packaging for their bottles, and the record companies use it as a CD cover.

The 'liquid cartons' is Korsnäs' main product. Just a little piece of a treetop is enough for 700 milk cartons, sufficient to supply a family for a year. Only two lorries are required to carry a million empty milk

cartons. If the packaging were glass instead, at least fifty two lorries would be needed for the same job and fuel consumption would have been twenty six times higher.

The raw materials for modern communications reside for the most part in people's minds. Ericsson is exploiting the County's genius for building and assembling communications installations, destined for world markets.

Their factory in Gävle manufactures mobile base-stations for second- and third-

generation mobile phones. Ericsson also have a factory and a research centre in Hudiksvall, which ensure that in fibre-optics, the County is at the cutting edge.

The water is not only for drinking - its potential energy enables electricity generation. The power companies have always kept a close eye on Gävleborg with its powerful rivers. 2.5 TWh are generated each year. This is enough to heat 100 000 homes.

The River Voxnan runs through Edsbyn, a small community with some big industry. Bandy sticks, windows and furniture for EU meetings form part of the unlikely mix.



■ Annette Johansson is one of a small number of female steelworkers. She has been working on the extrusion of stainless steel pipes at Sandvik Steel for eleven years.

■ Kilafors is one of the County's most exposed brands. They have long experience of manufacturing lorry trailers at this site. This trailer for timber was assembled by Stig Johansson, Per-Olof Renvall and Marie Olsson.



■ The Ljusdal branch of logistics company DHL has won the Company's own Quality Prize for several consecutive years. 170 staff work to ensure that packages arrive where and when they should.



Gävleborg – Leisure rich in culture

The Folkteatern's production of Chekhov's "Three Sisters", directed by Peter Oscarsson. Pictured here: Rolf Lassgård and Alexandra Zetterberg. Photograph: Lars Nykvist.



■ The County has a rich theatre tradition. Folkteatern in Gävleborg, under the direction of Peter Oscarsson, perform across the whole County, with permanent theatres in Gävle and Järvsö (Träteatern- the Wooden Theatre). They have also performed in a gas holder, in the seamen's church in Gävle and in a disused ironworks in Iggesund.

Meeting House

■ Gävle's stylish blue Concert House, by Stadsträdgården (The City Garden). The structure, designed by architect Bo Karlberg, was erected in 1997. The Concert House is also a meeting house and conference centre. Symphonies alternate with jazz and pop, big-band with chamber music, and Nordic ballads with music from around the world. Here is home to the fifty full-time musicians employed by the Gävle Symphony Orchestra (est.1912).



Tough encounters

■ We have four First Division teams, all within a 100 kilometers radius: Sandviken, Edsbyn, Bollnäs, and Ljusdal and Second Division Broberg in Söderhamn. International Bandy can be sampled at the annual World Cup in Ljusdal. This is where the heart of bandy beats in Sweden. In Gävle, the part of town called Brynäs has given its name to one of the country's most successful ice-hockey teams, twelve times gold-medallists in the Swedish Championship. Wherever you are in Gävleborg, there is always a team of skating gold-medallists to support.

Sandviken AIK, here represented by Thomas Larsson, has dominated the Bandy scene in recent years with a double gold in the Swedish Championship - and that is just the 1990's.



Gävleborg – Leisure rich in culture



Downhill skiing draws people to Kungsberget, outside Sandviken, Järvsö, Norrlandsporten and Has-sela. Harsa or Högbo for cross-country skiing.

Exciting encounters

■ Over the years, golf has become ever more popular to a wider public. In their quest for more holes under par, people with the golf-bug have 12 golf courses to

choose from. People looking for excitement of a wholly different kind can try one of the County's trotting tracks in Gävle, Bollnäs, or Hudiksvall. Trotting has a long history here with successful trainers, like the Nordin brothers and Stig H. Johansson to name some of the most famous.

Many equestrian sports are represented here. The Gävle Horse Show, Hästivalen, is bigger and better attended every year. Riding enthusiasts from all over the country meet up there. Wilder animals can be viewed in Järvsö. Järvsö Zoo is a good place for anyone who wants to see animals in a natural environment. All four Swedish predators are represented. In Furuviik, just outside Gävle, there is an amusement park as well as an animal park housing native and other animals. In the wintertime, there is renewed interest in long-distance ice skating. The inviting sea-ice along the 180 kilometers coast-line promises Sunday excursions in natural beauty.

Encounters with people

■ The range of events on offer is comprehensive – Strömmingsleken in Söderhamn, a big summer market in Ockelbo, the Bluegrass Festival in Tors-åker, Scandinavia's biggest festival of Country music at Furuviik, the Town Carnival in Hudiksvall, the City Carnival in Gävle (the country's biggest free entertainments). Hälsingland was first in the country to introduce ratings for tourist establishments based on their environment. The Green Key and Green Globe 21 stand for high quality and in keeping with the surroundings. The establishments are often situated in remote locations, and many of them are adapted for disabled use. When a break from activities is required, there are many fine restaurants to choose from. Hot tips include: Lassekrog near Färila, the atmospheric Järvsöbaden in Järvsö, Sjömärket, the fish specialists in Mellanfjärden, Albertina in Skärså, Åsma Brygga with sea view and the inn at Gysinge. An experience worth having is to go to Högbo and Gert Klotzke and find out what his team of top Swedish masterchefs can come up with. You can even cook your own dishes under expert supervision! Photograph showing Hälsingehambo Hälsingland's Folkdance Competition



Encounters rich with fish

■ 3000 kilometers of fast-flowing rivers with salmon and trout draw locals as well as tourists. The sea and lakes yield salmon, trout, white fish, perch pike-perch and pike. At least 80 fishing associations sell 100 000 fishing permits every year. In the rivers 700 000 salmon and trout fry are released every year. Five thousand of these are recaptured just downstream of Ljusnefors hydro-plant. The rivers Mellan-Ljusnan, Svagan and the lower Dalälven, where the salmon in the picture was caught, are listed in "Top Ten Fishing Sweden".

Photograph: Arbetarbladet

Encounters with woodlands

■ Gävleborg caters for a wide variety of leisure pursuits, both in its rich woodlands and in open ground. Several major footpaths run through the County. The culture of days gone by, when in summertime the peasant community lived in in wooden chalets, can be experienced hands-on along the 270km Gästrikeleden. The path joins Upplandsleden in the south and the Hälsingeleden in the north. Finnsgöleden, a 35km circular walk, is linked to a former forestry works. Besides these, there are many local paths to walk.

Those who would rather travel on the water, over still lakes and through rushing rapids, can select from a range of marked canoe routes. A rather more sedentary, yet none the less exciting way to experience the countryside is on the Jädraås – Tallås Museum Railway. Regular trips run every year in the summer months. Listing everything available in the woodlands would be a lengthy process. In Gävleborg, there are 150 kept areas and 3000 licensed hunters. There are 30 orienteering clubs. The County's expansive woodlands offer ample opportunity to cram punnets or buckets with tasty mushrooms and berries.



Theatre Tradition

■ Gävleborg has a rich theatre tradition. The Gävleborg Folkteatern is active county-wide, but has permanent theatres in Gävle and Järvsö the Wooden Theatre at Stenegård. Amateur theatre flourishes as do variety shows and travelling players, among them Skotte's music theatre in Gävle. (See picture) The Circus Gymnasium secondary school is situated in Gävle, and in Furuvik the "Furuviksbarnen" players give a circus performance every summer. Gävle used to be one of the towns where Swedish circus families spent their winter months. John Madigan, father of Elvira, and La Bella Ingeborg are both buried in the old churchyard in Gävle.

Skotte's music theatre in Gävle: Karl Zerpe, Per-Erik Nilsson, Anne Li Norberg, Marie Skönblom

Skotte's music theatre in Gävle: Karl Zerpe, Per-Erik Nilsson, Anne Li Norberg och Marie Skönblom



Railway Museum

■ At the dawn of the 20th century, there was a large number of privately owned railways in Gävleborg. The trains carried iron from the many ironworks out to the coast and the ports. From here Swedish iron was spread across the globe. The County's ancient monuments, including prehistoric sites for iron production and remains of blast furnaces, bear witness to a long tradition in the region. The railway was the lifeblood, around which station communities sprang up and towns grew. The many station buildings serve to remind us of this.

One of the most exciting examples of Swedish 1920's classicism in architecture is Gunnar Wetterling's Södra station (Southern Station) in Gävle. Gävleborg abounds with museums. The Gaol Museum, the Swedish Railway Museum in Gävle and the Textile Museum in Högbo are unique in Sweden. The Forestry Museum, Silvanum, and the County Museum are situated in Gävle. Museum displays in Hudiksvall, Bergvik, Edsbyn, Söderhamn and Ljusdal are devoted primarily to the Hälsingland area.



Unique design

■ Sweden, the level of interest in design concepts and in antiquities is steadily increasing. Gävleborg is home to the highest quality producers in both traditional and more recent styles. Bo Fajans and Gävle China factory both had many respected names on their books. Their ceramics is sought by collectors nationwide. Hälsingland's peasant artefacts are top class! The original, hand-painted, traditional peasant's cupboards are outstandingly beautiful – and extremely expensive. It is easier to acquire reproduction models from one of the local cabinet-makers who keep(s) tradition alive. Flax was at one time the base measure of a Hälsingland farmer's prosperity. Traditions are kept up by, for example, Vårbo Linens, whose products combine high quality and a distinctive style. Contemporary design and craftsmanship in glass and metals are the domain of the well-known Gunnar Cyren who has his own studio in Gävle. Examples of his work are the glasses and cutlery service he designed for the Nobel set. Olov Sundberg keeps the iron tradition alive in a range of surprising new forms. Many independent artists are renowned well beyond the County boundary.

Picture: Ceramics from Bo Fajans, designed by Maggie Wibom, manufactured 1925-1933. From Läns-museet (County Museum) collection.

Global export

■ Community Music Schools, such as that in Sandviken, lay the foundation for one of Sweden's most valuable exports – music! The County has nurtured many well known Swedish musicians whatever their genre, be it classical, jazz, folk or popular. Every year Sandvik puts on the Bängen jazz festival, which is invariably well attended, and similarly a festival of chamber music. During the summer months, musical events take place all over the County, for example Jazz in Svaben, music at Dellen and Hälsingehambon, the folkdance competition.



The key to the New Age

Many people consider that education is the master key to the new age – the communication age. Every year about 3500 knowledge-thirsty children start reception class in one of the County's schools. There are primary schools, secondary schools and high schools, as well as technical colleges, skills programmes, KYO (Vocational education).

Komvux's adult education in Häl-singland gives the district's adults the opportunity to broaden their education with providers all over Sweden.

In Gävle, research into the built environment is undertaken under the aegis of the Centre for Built Environment and the Institute of Housing research. Arbrå secondary school, on the other hand, specialises in management of the natural environment, while in Bollnäs there is the State Disabled Sports College as well as a specialist sports school.

The County was one of the first to introduce distance learning. More



than 1500 people now receive their university education in an interactive TV studio. The provision is far-reaching, and every district has its own studio. The technology enables distance learners to study on-line with many of the country's universities.

More than 10 000 students attend Gävle University. Healthcare and Creative Programming of computers attract the greatest numbers. The reconstruction of the old barracks was completed in 1995, and the newly built Natural Sciences block was inaugurated in 2000. Business – university links, which fall under the remit of Gävle Technology Park, have led to rapid growth in business. Intelligent buildings, geographic information systems, and the mobile internet are the Technology Park's main projects. Ericsson has set up a new research centre for third generation mobile research.



Björntomten

■ *In the majority of infant schools, children are taught about things they know already. But this is not the case at Björntomten nursery school. Here children are taught what they do not know. This method of teaching broadens the children's gender roles, which then cease to be what they are for the majority – a handicap.*

The technique proceeds on the basis that the boys are taught what the girls are already competent in, while the girls get to try what the boys are already good at. The teachers pay very close attention to exactly how they are relating to the children. Children cannot but fulfil the expectations of those around them, and traditionally completely different things have been expected of girls and boys.

At Björntomten the home truth that there is no point in laying blame at the feet of children is well understood and girls and boys are given the chance to develop all aspects of themselves.

At Björntomten, the girls do not need to be 'remedial carers' and when they say, "No," it is not negotiable. The boys have richly developed language skills and are comfortable with physical contact with each other. Consistent instruction of this type has produced girls and boys who, instead of playing in parallel as before, are now capable of playing together.



The second year produce their own newspaper, virtual of course, shown here by Joakim Berglund and Therese Johansson. The publication allows parents, among others, some insight into what their children get up to at school.



Färila – the humane school

■ “The best thing about this school,” says Gösta Dahlgren, Head of Färila School, “is that everyone looks out for everyone else.

The School attracted media attention for the fact that every student has their own computer, but it is modern and forward thinking in more ways than just this. Progression through the levels is carefully integrated to provide continuity of experience, and the various teaching teams interact according to plan. The premises are designed in such a way that a modern, human and pleasant place to work comes instantly to mind.

There is very little of the traditional school here. Learning is through research and reflection, with strong emphasis on personal responsibility.



David Ökvist envisages a career as a strip-cartoonist. In Hofors he will be able to gain the qualifications he needs.

Gävleborg – Farmland and woodland



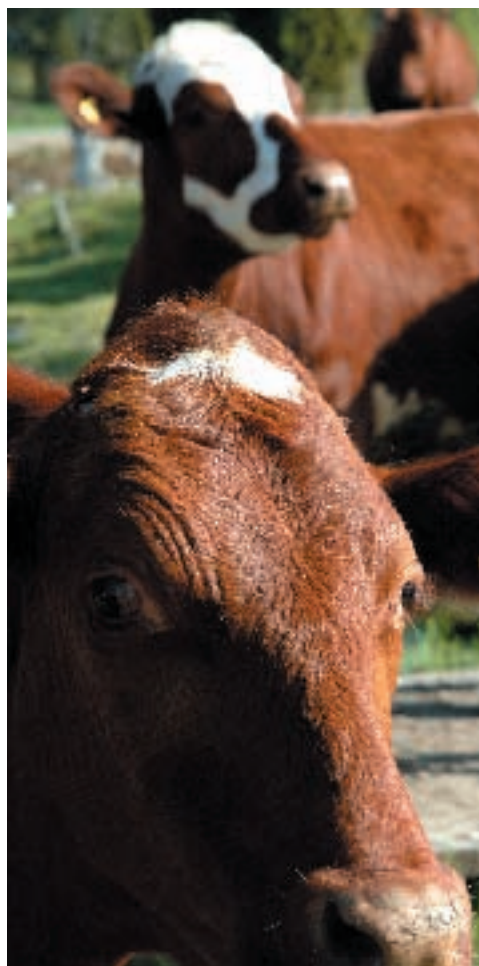
World famous

■ The world's biggest straw goat is constructed in Gävle every year. It is put out on Slottstorget (Palace Square) ready a month before Christmas, where, all being well, it will stand until the twentieth day of Christmas. The goat's reputation, however, is for more than just its size. Over the years many people have attempted to fireproof the straw goat and its fate is followed by the media the world over. Will it or won't it burn?

Golden liquid

■ Straw from oats, used for the goat, is grown in Gästrikland. Economy farming in the County is dominated by barley. It is used as fodder but an increasing proportion is refined into whisky by Mackmyra Swedish Whisky. All the ingredients, except the yeast, are supplied locally. The Distillery's Production Manager is Jonas Berg.





Farming in balance

■ Because of the climate grass and clover are the biggest crops from the County's 73 000 hectares of arable farmland. The yield is used as fodder for cows and horses. Compared with the country as a whole, the proportion of organic farms is higher in Gävleborg. This is why one sees so much clover in the fields. Clover powers organic arable farming. Ruminants power organic animal farming. Cows eat the grass and clover. This is converted to high-value protein in the form of milk and meat - a sustainable system, deeply ingrained in the traditions of Norrland's chalet-dwellers.



Consistent growth

■ The County is dominated by forestry workings. 1 495 000 hectares of productive woodland grows for eight months of the year, but value is added all year round. Nearly half of woodland is privately owned. The proportion of guaranteed regrowth in a cleared area is second only to Gotland. The lumbermen who work at Korsnäs have been outsourced. They are no longer employees, but businessmen.

Gästrikland's shield is bestrewn with decorative blue dots around the elk. Other Gästrikland symbols are lily-of-the-valley, capercaillie, and Gävle sandstone.



"Hälsingebocken", the straw goat, dates back to the 16th century when goat rearing was the Hälsingland people's main preoccupation. Other symbols of Hälsingland are flax, the lynx and Dellenite stone.



Gävleborg's coast

In 1557, the inhabitants of Gävleborg obtained sole rights to fish herring along the whole of the coast of Norrland in consideration of every tenth tonne being delivered up to King Gustav Vasa.

The very best smoked herring "Böckling" is processed in Bönan. Other specialities in herring are "Sotare" (grilled, salted herring) and the fermented, so-called "soured" herring.

In Gävleborg there are some 80 working fishermen. It is not just the sea that yields fish. There are eight breeding establishments and 30 plus smaller installations for fish production in the County.

Gävlefisk, a major supplier of fish, buys the fishermen's catches along the whole of the southern Gulf of Bothnia coast.

The coast, running from Furuviik in the south to Sörfjärden in the north, has plenty to offer. The sandy beaches are fantastic! Every summer so called "ecclesiastical holidays" are celebrated in little, old-fashioned chapels. Boat tours are available around Söderham's vast archipelago. Tihällan can boast the Gulf of Bothnia's biggest grey seal colony.

There are significant ports, equipped to deal with wood and paper exports, to be found at Söderhamn, Hudiksvall and Iggesund. Hudiksvall is Norrland's second oldest town, going back to 1582. On the Hornsland Peninsula, a national treasure for outdoor pursuits, there is a nature reserve and a number fishing villages. Mellanfjärden is a lively fishing village, with small fishing boats, guest harbour, the Coast Museum, a one-time ropemaker, wharves, a farm shop, crafts, a gallery and a fish restaurant. Surprising, when you consider that the resident population is around two hundred.



Photograph: Michael Ahne



Silver herring smoked into golden Böckling.
Photograph: Jörgen Svendsen

90 cm a century

■ *Storjungfrun (Large Maiden)*, one of Söderhamns 500 islands, has been inhabited since the 17th century. The rough cast lighthouse, built in 1923, is still used today.

Eggegrund, 20km east of Gävle, is an area recognised nationally for nature conservancy, with a bird ringing centre and much else. The first lighthouse was built in 1838, and the current, wholly automatic light was constructed in 1933. At Lövgrund, there is a mark in the ground made by Anders Celsius in 1724 as a reference for any rise in land levels. Celsius, the inventor of the centigrade thermometer, calculated it would be more than a metre per century. This was fairly accurate. The greatest rise in land levels in the country, occurs at present right on the southern Gulf of Bothnia coast at 90cm per century.



Photograph above: Lars Rosenblom.
Photograph right: Jörgen Svendsen



Photograph
of old Gerda:
Länsmuseet



Brig Gerda

■ In its heyday, Gävle port was the country's biggest and incorporated shipbuilding. The Gerda was launched in 1869. A brig, she was to become Sweden's last sail-driven trader, decommissioned in 1930, and a museum piece in the river Gavle until 1959 when she was blown to pieces and sank. Now the Gerda is being built for a second time. Traditional shipbuilding practices are being revived thanks to courses in traditional skills.

Joiner Kurt Johansson working on a watertight bulkhead.



Close to Gävleborg



➤ The East Coast railway line provides a fast service to Stockholm, for example. Hudiksvall - Arlanda: 125 minutes; Gävle - Arlanda: 61 minutes. The Atlantic line goes west, towards Trondheim, and the Bergslagen line goes through the Dalarna towards Middle Sweden.

➤ The most important roads are the E4 coast road and Route 80, which goes through Gävleborg towards Falun. Route 83 goes along the Ljusnan, and beyond to the mountain region. Route 84 from Hudiksvall runs past the blue Dellen lakes towards Ljusdal and the mighty woodlands. Route 301 from Söderhamn wends through the beautiful Voxnadalen to unspoiled wilderness in Orsa Finnmark and Hamras National Park. Route 67, nicknamed the "Straight Line" is the main road to Mälardalen. Along route 272, the Way of Ages, between Uppsala and Ljusdal, there are plenty of places to see. Route 301 through Voxnadalen to an untouched wilderness. It is a slightly less direct option, but dotted with crafts, activities, places to eat and annual events. Bergslagsdiagonalen (the Bergslag diagonal), which runs from Ödeshög in the south to Söderhamn in the North, promises 350 miles in King Gustav Vasa's footsteps. It is named Route 50.



Read more on our Websites

Länsstyrelsen
www.x.lst.se

Gävle kommun
www.gavle.se

Ockelbo kommun
www.ockelbo.se

Bollnäs kommun
www.bollnas.se

Nordanstigs kommun
www.nordanstig.se

Landstinget
www.lg.se

Sandvikens kommun
www.sandviken.se

Söderhamns kommun
www.soderhamn.se

Hudiksvalls kommun
www.hudiksvall.se

Kultur i Gävleborg
www.gpunkt.com

Kommunförbundet
www.gavleborg.komforb.se

Hofors kommun
www.hofors.se

Ovanåkers kommun
www.ovanaker.se

Ljusdals kommun
www.ljusdal.se